



Community Justice Scotland

Ceartas Coimhearsnachd Alba

East Lothian Community Justice Partnership



COMMUNITIES
VALUES, BELIEFS AND THINKING **SUPPORT**
ACCOUNTABILITY
HEALTH EFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS
INCLUSION LIFE CHANCES
EARLY INTERVENTION **HOUSING**
LEARNING EMOTIONAL WELLBEING
EVIDENCE VICTIMS PARTNERS
EMPLOYMENT **OPPORTUNITY**
REINTEGRATION **RESPECT**

Strategic Needs & Strengths Assessment
2020-2023

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Executive Summary

This report provides an analysis of community justice in East Lothian with a focus on understanding existing service provision and population needs. Providing a comprehensive overview of community justice in East Lothian in terms of the needs, issues and strengths specific to that area the report aims to facilitate evidence-led planning to effectively address the needs of individuals in East Lothian.

The report articulates the evidential base underpinning the relationship between social factors and re-offending¹. In particular the report recognises the broader impacts of deprivation on mental health, offending behaviour, physical health, educational inequalities and the life chances of individuals as well as broader impacts on community well-being. East Lothian Council has adopted a pro-active policy approach which is exemplified by the establishment of The East Lothian Poverty Commission in 2016². The Commission was initially set up on response to clear evidence of rising levels of poverty endured by vulnerable groups in the region. In particular, over 30% of children were living below the poverty line and 49% of pensioners were living in fuel poverty. The extent of food poverty was also particular concern for the Commission. In 2016, 2806 people received food parcels of which 1073 were children³. A central concern related by this report is the significant increase in levels of deprivation across East Lothian since 2016. Using data retrieved from The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation the report evidences the multi-dimension and complex nature of deprivation in East Lothian. Exemplifying this, for the first time an area within East Lothian, the Northfield/Lindores Drive area of Tranent, is situated within the top 10% of the most deprived areas in Scotland. The data also shows that East Lothian was one of only six local authorities in Scotland where levels of deprivation have risen since 2016. In 2020, 10.2% of East Lothian's population are income deprived compared to 9.8% in 2016.

The report also includes an analysis of closure of Haddington Sheriff Court in 2015 has created significant delays the way in which cases are processed as all cases are now heard at Edinburgh Sheriff Court. As has been evidenced early in this report demographic pressures related to the projected growth in population and numbers of households in East Lothian combined with socio-economic pressures relating to rising levels of poverty and deprivation in the region may exacerbate these pressures in the short, medium and long term. Moreover, the specific limitations placed on judicial procedures and processes as a result of the Coronavirus Scotland legislation and general Covid 19 context may also place pressures on these judicial processes. Within this context, it may be suggested that an evaluation of existing processes be undertaken to ascertain current and future constraints arising from the closure of Haddington Sheriff Court. In particular, it would be helpful to ascertain the impact of the closure of Haddington Sheriff Court on information sharing and partnership working to ensure the timely provision of information relevant to pre-sentencing decisions such as Psychological Assessments and Justice Social Work Reports to ensure that decision making is adequately informed.

Recommendations

1. To address the challenges emerging from a Covid 19 public health and economic context by strengthening and investing in existing evidenced based services provided by East Lothian Community Justice Partnership within the context of an integrated public health approach.
2. To evaluate existing processes relating to current and future constraints arising from the closure of Haddington Sheriff Court. In particular, it would be helpful to ascertain the impact of the closure of Haddington Sheriff Court on information sharing and partnership working to ensure the timely provision of information relevant to pre-sentencing decisions such as

Psychological Assessments and Justice Social Work Reports to ensure that decision making is adequately informed.

3. To ensure the accurate and timely recording of information relating to the postcode and housing status of individuals convicted of offences within the local authority group Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian as all of these individuals were convicted in Edinburgh Sheriff Court, however as Table shows 21% of offenders convicted in Edinburgh Sheriff Court had missing postcodes. A recent analysis of data related to re-convictions across local authorities in Scotland conducted by the Scottish Government also noted the importance of recording no-fixed abode within the case management process. Missing data seriously undermines the reliability of data relating to reconviction rates. Critically also, 11% of individuals convicted in Edinburgh Sheriff Court reside in local authorities out-with Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian. Overall, this shows that there are significant percentages of offenders convicted in Edinburgh Sheriff Court who reside in local authorities which are out-with Edinburgh City. Accurate and timely recording of the postcode of convicted individuals is also important within the broader case management process particularly with regard to identifying offenders with no fixed abode.
4. To take account of significant growth in levels of poverty in the region and tailor strategic investment in public services to mitigate deteriorating economic and labour market conditions. This deterioration is largely a result of the structural impact of the Covid 19 pandemic however the departure of the UK from the European Union will exacerbate existing economic conditions.
5. To recognise population growth as a significant factor in future strategic investment decisions in East Lothian. In particular, in terms of the projected population profile between 2018 and 2028 the 75 and over age group is projected to see the largest percentage increase (+32.6%).
6. To undertake an in-depth and detailed assessment of Public Health Impacts and or implications of Covid 19 legislation and guidance on ELCJP Services and Projects.
7. To recognise the impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on youth transitions in the region. In particular rapidly changing economic and labour market conditions have impacted significantly on training and education needs particularly with regard to equipping young people with the digital and technological skills required across all sectors within a future post-Covid economy.
8. To provide increased support for informal carers in the East Lothian. Increased investment in Health Care and Home Care Services is recommended to mitigate the negative impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on the physical and mental health of carers in the region. Demographic changes in the area which predict a higher proportion of elderly people in the region over the next also evidences the need for increased levels of strategic investment in integrated health and social care provision to support informal carers in the region. In addition, a full assessment of the needs of young carers should be undertaken with increased investment in innovative projects such as The Bridges Project and East Space alongside increased support through health care and home care services for young carers.
9. To continue to develop a strong collaboration with the Education sector at all levels in East Lothian as it is a major employer in the region and is also a significant partner particularly within programmes driven by Intervention, Prevention and the reduction of educational inequalities.
10. To invite the East Lothian Community Justice Partnership to consider the critical data contained within this report and the impact this has on community justice services in East Lothian.

2. Introduction

The Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 established the legislative framework for the new model in community justice across Scotland requiring statutory and non-statutory partners to co-operate at a local level⁴. Statutory partners include local authorities, health boards, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue service, Skills Development Scotland, Integration Joint Boards, Scottish Courts and Tribunal Services, Scottish Ministers. The purpose of this Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment (SNSA) is to:

1. Assist the Community Justice Partnership to understand service provision and population needs in the East Lothian area and form a baseline for planning decisions and measuring outcomes.
2. Provide a comprehensive overview of community justice in that locality and the needs, issues and strengths specific to that area.
3. Facilitate evidence-led planning to effectively address the needs of individuals in a local area.
4. Be a foundation for all strategic and operational activity.

2.2. Legislative and Policy Context

The new model for community justice came into effect on 1st April 2017. The national agency ‘Community Justice Scotland’ was established to ensure the delivery of community justice outcomes across Scotland. Whilst the agency focuses on crime reduction and prevention, the concept and strategic vision of community justice is much broader. Recognising that people who come into contact with community justice services often have significant and complex health needs complicated by social issues ‘Community Justice Partnerships’ are required to develop local strategies which are aimed at;

“reducing re-offending; increasing positive citizenship; increasing public safety; increasing public reassurance; reducing costs; and reducing stigma”⁵

This requires local multi-sectoral policy strategies and practice measures directed at a broad range of economic, social and psychological challenges emerging from issues such as, homelessness, psychological trauma, social isolation, unemployment, low income, substandard employment conditions, lack of education or training, substandard housing, and indebtedness. Economic, social and health inequalities have been widely evidenced as being linked to offending behaviour (e.g. substance dependence, mental health, homelessness and being in debt)⁶. The significance of psychological trauma and associated conditions related to mental health has meant that NHS Scotland plays an important role within Community Justice Partnerships at local level. NHS Lothian is a crucial and pro-active partner within East Lothian Community Justice Partnership. The Covid19 Pandemic has led to challenging public health and socio-economic conditions during 2020 placing increased pressures on NHS health care providers and social services. Professional practitioners within health care and social services have been at the forefront of providing services to individuals and communities who face particular vulnerabilities.

2.2.1. Legislative Context:

The legislative context is underpinned by the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 which places duties on statutory partners who have a key role to play in improving community justice outcomes. Whilst the Act and accompanying guidance forms the central reference point for the development of

policies and professional practice and case management the Covid 19 Pandemic has led to further legislation. In particular, The Coronavirus Act 2020: The Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 and The Coronavirus (Scotland) (No.2) Bill have impacted significantly on the legislative context of community justice in Scotland. This report takes full cognisance of this legislative context particularly with regard to the current focus on public health outcomes.

2.2.1.1. New Model for Community Justice: 2017

The central aim of the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 was to “*to help create a stronger community justice system based on local collaborative strategic planning and delivery, with national leadership, support and assurance*”.⁷

A central tenet of the Act is Equal Access to Services. The Act also places duties on all statutory partners to improve community justice outcomes through;

1. Effective collaboration and coordination between statutory and non-statutory partners at local and national level.
2. Effectively managed person-centred transitions which ensure that the needs of individuals are assessed and addressed.

A central aim of Community Justice is to prevent and reduce re-offending. Reoffending is evidenced as being a complex social issue and an individual's propensity to re-offend has been widely evidenced as being strongly influenced by psycho-social factors such as lack of social support, homelessness, loneliness, bereavement, marriage status, social disruption, work environment, social status, social exclusion and financial exclusion.⁸ These factors have also been found to have a negative impact on an individual's capacity to cope with psychologically traumatic events. Recent evidence has shown that individuals who need support to address multiple and complex health needs are often reluctant to engage effectively with health and social services⁹. The effective management of cases is thus critical. This report includes a description and evaluation of the case management process in East Lothian with a particular focus on the provision of psychological assessments and the timely submission of these assessments during the judicial process particularly during pre-sentencing of offenders.

2.2.1.2 Community Interventions

Community interventions have been evidenced as being more effective in preventing re-offending than short prison sentences¹⁰. Community Justice Partnerships play an important role in the development of effective interventions and preventative programmes by helping to prevent reoffending and reducing victimisation. The extension of the Presumption Against Short Sentences (PASS) from three to twelve months was introduced in June 2019 as a further measure to prevent offending by encouraging a shift from short custodial sentences to more effective community interventions such as Community Payback Orders (CPOs). The order compels individuals to pay back to their communities for the damage caused by their offending and may take the form of unpaid work. CPO's support rehabilitation by requiring people to address the underlying causes of their offending behaviour. CPO's may be combined with other measures such as drug or alcohol conduct requirements and electronic monitoring. Local authorities are responsible for implementing CPO's. Pre-sentencing requirements include, where appropriate, the timely provision of Criminal Justice Social Work Reports and, on occasion, psychological assessments. This requires effective collaboration and coordination between court services and health and social service agencies at a local level.

The Community Justice Act, 2016 also requires local Community Justice Partnerships to address the barriers faced by victims of crime. These barriers include a lack of available services, stigma, lack of information about services and poor or expensive public transport.

The improvement of Community Justice outcomes for offenders and victims of crime requires a whole community approach which addresses a broad range of contributing factors. The effective co-ordination of measures designed to support people and the families of people who have committed offences requires the collaboration of broad range of public, private and community organisations. Equally, the community justice outcomes of the victims of crime and wider communities can only be fully addressed through a coordinated collaborative approach between the justice sector and a broad range of partners. This coordinated response and level of support is particularly crucial during the transition of people between custody and the community and during pre-sentencing. As previously evidenced the complex health and social care factors involved in community justice outcomes mean that health and social care service providers play a particularly significant role in this response. The current Covid 19 pandemic has accentuated this role within a broader public health context.

A National Strategy for Community Justice and National Outcomes, Performance and Improvement Framework were published by the Scottish Government in 2016 to outline the new model. A new national body called Community Justice Scotland came into power on the 1st April 2017, the aim being to provide leadership for the community justice sector; offer opportunities for innovation, learning & development; provide independent assurance on the delivery of improved outcomes; and provide improvement support where required.

As part of the new arrangements, local planning partnerships are required to produce Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plans to show what will be done to promote social inclusion, reduce (re)offending and support victims of crime. The East Lothian Community Justice Plan 2017-2020 was published in 2017. The Transitional LOIP was published in 2020 to cover the period from 2020-2021.

2.2.1.3. Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 and Coronavirus (Scotland) (No.2) Bill

Measures to ensure that the justice system is able to deliver essential services have been implemented following extensive engagement between Scottish Government officials and stakeholders across the justice sector. These measures provide guidance on justice related provisions of the Act. These measures are designed to address some of the key issues relating to the impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on Community Justice in Scotland. A range of measures are now in place including measures affecting Community Payback Order requirements and the work of The Scottish Prison Service (SPS). A key measure which is now in place is the extension of the specified period for unpaid work or other activity requirements. Here, the time limit for the completion of all existing unpaid work or other activity requirements in Community Payback Orders has now been extended by 12 months (i.e. whatever specified period has been imposed by the court for completion of unpaid work in an individual order, the new end date will be 12 months later). This measure will be alterable by a Scottish statutory instrument, in order to allow it to be extended further should that be necessary.

SHORE and COVID 19 Interim Guidance for the Scottish Prison Service

Within the context of the current Covid 19 pandemic the work of the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) is guided by three key principles; public health, operational stability and capacity. This work is strengthened by the involvement of SPS as a Community Justice Partner in CJP's across Scotland. The primary focus of SPS during the current period is to ensure the health and well-being of all people who live and work in Scotland's prisons.¹¹ Health Protection Scotland provide updated advice with regard to suspected or confirmed cases of Covid 19 in prisons. Newly introduced provisions related to Ministers powers to instruct the early release of prisoners from custody where it was considered necessary to support the continued operation of the prison service, or to protect the health of prison staff and prisoners. Individuals in custody who are suspected or confirmed of having Covid 19 are isolated in prison as directed by a health professional. If an individual is confirmed or suspected as having COVID-19 and they are acutely unwell then they may be transferred to hospital

depending on local NHS hospital capacity. The Scottish Prison Service cannot hold individuals when their discharge date falls within the 14-day isolation period. From the 24th of March 2020 all prison visits were suspended although critical agent's visits are allowed to continue. Contingencies have been put in place to enable staff to work with people in prison via telephone contact. In addition, virtual casework teams have been established across the relevant prisons, local authorities and frontline partners. The guidance also recommends that agreed methods of communication and desired outcomes are established at all stages of an individual's liberation. In particular the guidance states that it is,

“vital that people leaving prison continue to have access to the services they need in the run up to their discharge date. This period can be an anxious time for individuals and this will be heightened if they have been isolated. SPS must be proactive in contacting local authorities and partners to enable them to assist those leaving prison, particularly those who are liberated during a period of isolation. Where an individual is well and showing no symptoms on liberation there is no need for local authority staff to contact health colleagues. If an individual is acutely unwell in the lead up to discharge, then they may have been transferred to hospital depending on local NHS capacity. Links Centres must advise the local authority if this is the case. While multi agency working may also be difficult it is most important that services continue to work together remotely to facilitate as seamless an approach to liberation as possible and identify a keyworker/named contact for individuals (Local Authority, Third Sector or SPS (only whilst in custody))”¹²

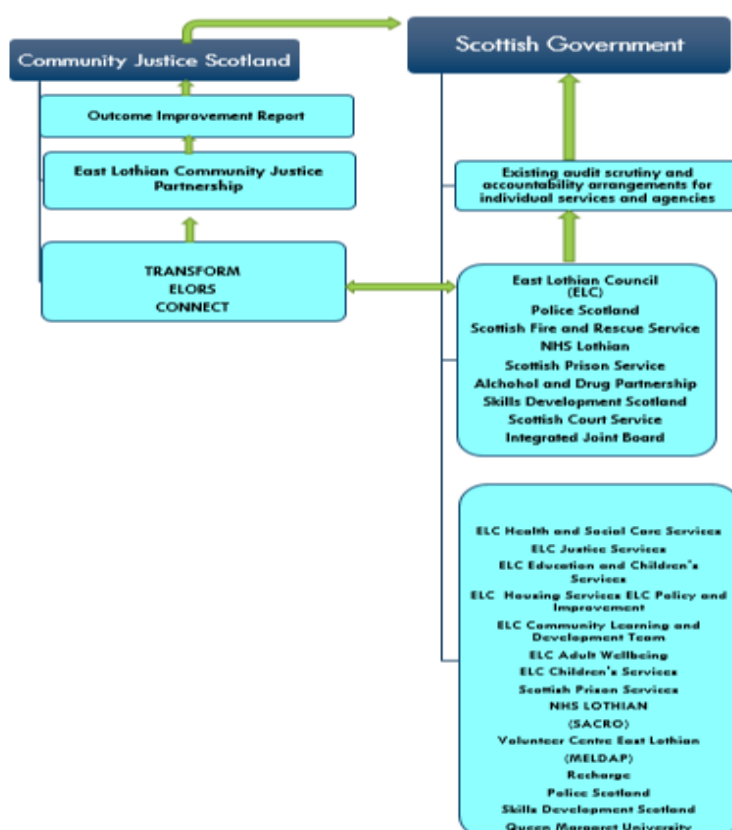
2.2.2 Policy Context

Community Justice Scotland's draft Corporate Plan 2020-2023 clearly sets out the policy context for Community Justice going forward. Identifying the central national outcome of the National Performance Framework as living in 'communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe' the plan specifically focuses on the protection and fulfilment of human rights and freedom from discrimination. In alignment with this focus the plan

“work with employers, public bodies and others to ensure that people with lived experience of the justice system are supported in their rehabilitation journeys, to achieve their full potential and to contribute to society and to also tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally”.

The document sets out Community Justice Scotland's role in supporting community justice partners and to monitor and report progress to Scottish ministers and the Scottish Parliament against the National Outcomes set out in the National Strategy for Community Justice. The plan also identifies the 2019 legislation relating to the management of offenders, the extension of the PASS to 12 months. In 2019 legislation relating to the management of offenders, the extension of the PASS to 12 months and the Age of Criminal Responsibility was enacted. The impact of these progressive measures will become increasingly apparent and it is clear that they will contribute to taking people out of the criminal justice system and directing them into more effective community-based programmes and services. CJS will continue to be fully engaged in supporting the development of relevant national policy and legislation and to support its effective implementation. The Community Justice Scotland Act 2016 facilitated the establishment of the new model for community justice. Three years after its enactment, views have emerged about how some provisions of the Act could be improved, and it is hoped that during the lifetime of this plan there will be an opportunity to formally review and improve its provisions. We would like community justice to be front and centre of people's thinking around prevention of offending. We know that many of the solutions to changing people's lives and behaviours are to be found in the services in our local areas across Scotland. During the lifetime of this plan CJS will prioritise partnership working, developing and promoting a shared understanding about the benefits of community justice including to communities and the wider public. That means

that the profile of community justice must be raised further and that CJS will move beyond being a ‘new body’ and become a widely accepted, established lead organisation within the justice sector¹³.



3.0 East Lothian Community Justice Partnership (ELCJP)

The core purpose of East Lothian Community Justice Partnership (ELCJP) is to,

“Promote equality and drive local community planning to improve outcomes for people wherever they are on the justice pathway and to improve outcomes for their families, victims and the wider community”

The partnership is an integral part of the East Lothian Community Partnership (ELCJP) and is responsible for the co-ordination of the strategic planning, monitoring and delivery of measures and services directed at community justice in East Lothian. At its core East Lothian Community Justice Partnership aims to promote and strengthen services which facilitate the prevention of offending and re-offending. To achieve this ELCJP is committed to delivering services that are joined-up and responsive to local need. As such ELCJP regularly undertakes intelligence gathering exercises to identify and evaluate local strengths and areas for improvement.

The membership of ELCJP includes representatives from Police Scotland, Scottish Prison Service, NHS Lothian, Skills Development Scotland, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, Queen Margaret University and third sector organisations. Relevant services from East Lothian Council also attend, including Justice Social Work, Connected Communities, housing and there is also elected member representation.

Three workstreams have been established to deliver priority objectives.

1. **Community Engagement** – to promote and raise awareness of the partnership and related services to help people with experience of the justice system.

Purpose

- (i) To promote and raise awareness of the work of the Community Justice Partnership (CJP) and its local priorities within our communities, promoting the vision of the CJP and embedding the principles of community justice in community partnership collaborative working and projects – all with the intent of preventing and reducing further offending.
- (ii) To lead community and stakeholder engagement on behalf of the CJP.
- (iii) To establish and support a Community Justice Citizen's Advisory Group, including those with lived experience of the criminal justice system, to assist with CJP planning and community engagement.
- (iv) To link community volunteering opportunities with people/ services undertaking and delivering Community Payback Orders (CPOs).
- (v) To consult with the community and promote the opportunities and benefits derived from locally based Community Payback Orders.
- (vi) Work proactively with people who have lived experience of the community justice system
- (vii) To raise awareness of local services and interventions supporting the community justice agenda in East Lothian, including services offering Victim Support.

2. **Early Intervention and Prevention** – working to ensure the right services and programmes are in place to prevent young people from entering the justice system.

Purpose

- (i) To focus and target our work and respond timeously and efficiently to antisocial behaviour and youth justice issues by creating sustainable pathways away from offending behaviour at earlier stages.
- (ii) To support children and families affected by parental imprisonment.

3. **Getting it Right to Reduce Reoffending** – this work focuses on making sure people with convictions get access to the support they need while in prison or out in the community.

Purpose

To help readdress the balance of inequalities experienced by people with offending histories and their families, through improved service provision, by working across sectors, focussing on criminogenic needs and risk factors. The sub-group covers both services targeted at people with a conviction and their families and universal services, which reduce the likelihood of re-offending, benefitting the whole community.

Figure One: Overview of East Lothian Community Justice Partnerships Structures.



Members of the ELCJP work collaboratively to support people in our area that have experience of the community justice system. While crime and offending in East Lothian is relatively low when compared with other local authority areas in Scotland, ELCJP members recognise that it can have a significant impact on individuals and local communities. A key priority is to ensure that all individuals and families who have direct experience of the justice system benefit from timely access to appropriate and effective services.

3.1 East Lothian Community Partnership Governance Structure

The governance structure and current membership of East Lothian Community Justice Partnership both reflects and supports our commitment to delivery of the three key priorities of Community Engagement, Early Intervention and Prevention and Getting it Right to Reduce Reoffending. The whole community approach to improving community justice outcomes is accompanied by a commitment to appropriate and effective individual case management of offenders.

East Lothian Community Justice Partnership operationalises a collaborative leadership approach in the planning and delivery of measures and services directed at community justice across East Lothian. Community Justice was firmly established in East Lothian in January 2016 through the Reducing Reoffending Group. This group initial reported to the “Safe and Vibrant Communities Partnership” (a then subgroup of East Lothian Partnership). The Reducing Reoffended Group oversaw the transition to the Community Justice Model in East Lothian and was disbanded in March 2019.

East Lothian Community Justice Partnership works collaboratively with statutory and third sector partners in the region to deliver the Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan (CJLOIP). This collaboration has led to innovative and effective projects and programmes such as TRANSFORM, ELORS and CONNECT tailored to the needs of people with convictions and their families.

Figure 2: Community Justice Governance Arrangements in East Lothian

The diagram below shows the relationship between the range of strategical partnerships operating across East Lothian with the Community Justice Partnership and East Lothian Partnership against Rural Crime reporting directly to the East Lothian Community Planning Partnership. East and Midlothian Public Protection Committee and The Health and Social Care Partnership (H&SCP) sit alongside ELP with Community Justice being the golden thread between all three strategic groups.

3.2 East Lothian Community Partnership Key Services, Partnerships and Projects.

The TRANSFORM Project

The central aim of TRANSFORM is to provide responsive and timely support to those individuals who are regarded as being at highest risk of anti-social and/or offending behaviour. This behaviour has been evidenced as being extremely detrimental to the health and well-being of individuals and impacts negatively on the community as a whole¹⁴. Here, research has also shown several precursors to anti-social and or offending behaviours including economic deprivation, social isolation and school exclusion.

In 2016, the Scottish Government requested that NHS Education for Scotland develop a set of resources to promote and implement trauma informed practice within Scotland. This was due to the growing recognition of the impact of traumatic experiences on people across all age groups. There is a growing evidential base revealing the profound impact of traumatic experiences on perpetrators and victims within community justice.

community violence; racist victimisation; serious accidents and abandonment. Trauma is directly related to propensity to re-offend as it directly impacts on mental and emotional strengths and weaknesses (resilience). The impact of previous trauma on mental and emotional strength and resilience also depends on what kind of support the individual has at home, in the community and broader society.

Understanding the relationship between trauma and youth offending including the capacity of individuals to comply with youth justice interventions is thus critical to effective resettlement practice with custody leavers.¹⁵ The next Beyond Youth Custody practitioner briefing examines how our knowledge about the links between trauma and youth offending (including their capacity to comply with youth justice interventions) can begin to inform more effective resettlement practice with custody leavers. In addition, research has identified key turning points which enable individuals to turn away from anti-social or offending behaviour including getting a job, moving to a better area and getting married¹⁶.

The impact of an antisocial lifestyle on health is increasingly well understood. For example, early contact with the police, truancy, school misconduct, and divorce are significant predictors of premature death.¹⁷ Higher death rates and multiple health risks among offenders have been attributed largely to concurrent alcohol and illicit use of drugs.¹⁸

East Lothian Offender Recovery Service

ELCJP recognises the value to positive and timely interventions to prevent re-offending, and this is exemplified by the East Lothian Offender Recovery Service (ELORS), (delivered by Access to Industry), a dedicated resource providing individual interventions for people with convictions who are seeking entry into Employment, Training and Education. This is closely aligned to the Scottish Government's "No One Left Behind, next steps for employability support, national employability strategy established in March 2018. During its pilot phase it was match funded by Justice Social Work and the European Social Fund. In 2019, after a positive evaluation, the service applied for funding from ELCs One Council Partnership Fund to allow for continuation of the service.

Mid and East Lothian Drug and Alcohol Partnership (MELDAP)

MELDAP is a member of the ELCJP. The primary aim of MELDAP is to co-ordinate the design and delivery of alcohol and drug services across East Lothian and Midlothian. With a commitment to evidenced informed practice, the service is needs led, recovery focused and driven by evidence of what makes a difference to the lives of service users and their families who play a vital role in the design and evaluation of services. As a result, MELDAP has developed and delivered innovative and effective ways of working. This was noted in the Care Inspectorate 2017 report on the work of the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership. The central objectives of MELDAP are to

1. Reduce the harm to individuals and promote recovery from substance misuse
2. Protect children and young people from the affects of parental substance misuse
3. Develop early interventions to prevent the harmful use of alcohol and drugs
4. Develop high quality, cost effective integrated services.

MELDAP has been instrumental in the continued development of a Recovery Orientated System of Care (ROSC), a network of community-led and community-based person-centred services designed to promote recovery. The 'Gateways to Recovery clinic' is the starting point for many people wanting to address their problematic alcohol or drug use, and they can simply drop into venues such as the Esk Centre. They will be seen immediately and directed to the most appropriate treatment service. The ROSC model also includes self-help groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Cocaine Anonymous and SMART. The SMART group has up to 14 weekly attendees. Linking people with education Support to re-engage with education, develop new skills and gain qualifications. The MELDAP Recovery College which, over the last 12 months, has worked with 41 students with 13 gaining SQA qualifications, two moving on to Further Education, five into work and six becoming volunteers.

Friday Friends Cafe and the Starfish Recovery Cafe help people reconnect with the wider community and reduce isolation seeing some 30 to 40 people weekly. Friday Friends is an outreach programme (with a Christian ethos) for those in the community who are experiencing some degree of exclusion associated with alcohol and/or drug misuse issues and/or related mental health issues and they receive multi-agency funding from the Area Partnerships. MELD peer support workers, all people with lived experience, provide a range of practical support to clients; helping them engage with services, accompanying them to appointments and acting as an advocate when needed. Support to help clients' mindfulness and support recovery is provided through alternative therapies such as ear acupuncture offered to MELD clients. The Lothian and Edinburgh Abstinence Programme (LEAP) provided a place for 10 people who needed longer term residential treatment with 70% of clients completing the 12-week programme.

The My Space Project

This project from the Life Changes Trust was successful in making a joint bid for funding for the Council to purchase 10 properties over a period of three years to provide accommodation for up to 20 care experienced young people. They will be supported by a Peer Flatmate (recruited from Queen Margaret University), a Housing Support Provider, a Care Experienced Research and Link Worker, and ELC as the tenancy management agent. Each tenancy will be made up of two care experienced young people and a peer flatmate. The care experienced young people might come from B&Bs, straight from foster care, or they might already be living in their own tenancy but feel that they are not coping well or feel isolated. The peer flatmate will bring a degree of stability and knowledge about life skills and tenancy management. This will help create an environment in which care experienced young people will be encouraged to live independently and create a home for themselves.

The Heavy Sound Project

The Heavy Sound project makes learning work for groups who face barriers to learning and inclusion. They primarily work with young people who have experienced trauma or barriers, helping to re-engage through innovative projects using hip-hop, rapping, song writing, DJ'ing, music production, band work & more. Their practitioners are youth workers, lived experience mentors and music professionals. They focus on prevention and early intervention, offering a range of bespoke services which can be tailored to suit individual and group needs. This helps develop new skills whilst addressing issues around confidence, self-esteem and wellbeing by exploring self-expression in a fully supported environment. Heavy Sound are a preventative resource who have secured funding from Fa'side Area Partnership and One Council Partnership Fund, reporting into the Community Engagement workstream and the ELP Governance group.

ASB Officer

A recent staff and role review conducted by the Local Area Commander, saw the appointment of a new officer to the ASB role, bringing vast policing expertise and knowledge to the post. The officer works in the George Johnston Centre alongside the ELC ASB team and ELC Housing and this is proving very successful with both agencies reporting greater successes through better information sharing and new improved ideas to collaborate. One of the first changes this officer made was to the Parent Advisory Letters (PAL) process, which has seen the process streamlined and as such there have been an increase in these letters being sent out to parents/guardians of youths involved in ASB in the county.

The Best Bar None initiative

The police continue to invest in this initiative in an effort to further reduce anti-social behaviour and violence in our communities. Best Bar None is a crime prevention scheme based around Licensing objectives that aims to reward well managed venues. This year's scheme has closed to new subscribers but there have been 30 applicants which is a 100% increase from last year.

Police School Link Officers

Police School Link Officers, two community policing officers are dedicated solely to local schools to promote early intervention and information sharing to reduce poor attendance levels and reduce offending. Joint patrols between Police, Community wardens and volunteer youth workers happen throughout the year at local events/galas/festivals/licensed premises dispersal. A good example of this being the proactive response to youth related disorder at local funfairs.

Justice Social Work Services in East Lothian

Justice Social Work (JSW) Services in East Lothian provides a statutory service to people who offend, their families and victims of crime. The key outcomes are community safety and public protection, the reduction of re-offending and promoting social inclusion to support desistance from offending. JSW are committed to reducing the imposition of custodial sentences by offering a wide range of community disposals.

A key function of JSW is to provide reports to the Court to aid sentencing for the Justice of the Peace, Sheriff or Judge. These Criminal Justice Social Work Reports (CJSWRs) will assess and analyse offending behaviour to gain insight into what may help to promote desistance as well as providing information about the person's background, relationships, education, employment, health, substance use and leisure activities. The CJSWR will make an assessment on the likelihood of the individual committing further offences as well as highlighting any risk of causing harm to the public alongside a preferred disposal, option for the sentence to consider.

The disposals options open to sentencers in East Lothian include:

- Custodial sentence
- Community Payback Order (CPO)
- Drug Treatment and Testing Order (DTTO)
- Financial Penalty (including Compensation Orders)
- Restriction of Liberty Order
- Deferred Sentence
- Admonition

Where a CPO is imposed there are NINE potential requirements:

- Supervision – lasting from 6 to 36 months requiring the development of Case Management Plan that will detail the work to be undertaken to discourage future offending.
- Unpaid Work/Other Activity - the purpose of this requirement is to ensure the individual 'pays back' to the community by completing unpaid work or engaging in other activities that are an opportunity to develop skills, learning and understanding so as to increase life chances with hours between 20 and 300 and a completion timescale of 3 to 12 months.
- Programme - this involves a course or planned set of activities over a period of time for the purpose of addressing offending behaviour.
- Compensation – where there is an identifiable victim who could receive direct recompense for the harm caused by the offence.
- Conduct – this requires an individual to undertake an activity, stay away from (or remain in) a certain place or complete specific tasks that are likely to reduce the risk of them committing further offences or to protect the victim.
- Mental Health – where a diagnosed mental health condition and/or learning disability contributes to offending.
- Drug Treatment – where drug dependency is connected to the offending behaviour and treatment will reduce harm, secure abstinence and/or prevent relapse.
- Alcohol Treatment – where alcohol dependency is connected to offending behaviour and treatment may include medical, psychological and/or counselling intervention.
- Residence – this requires an individual to live at a named address which will support desistance.

Where a custodial sentence requiring Statutory Throughcare is imposed, the Justice Social Worker will be in regular contact with the individual and their family throughout the sentence, as well as prison-based social work and Scottish Prison Service staff, to plan for eventual release. Three months prior to release there will be a multi-agency meeting where the individual, their family, prison and community based social workers and Scottish Prison Service staff meet to discuss what supports or restrictions are required for release. A list of proposed Licence conditions is drawn up – these conditions will relate directly to the risks and needs of the individual and be targeted at their rehabilitation and resettlement, as well as protecting previous or potential victims in the community. On release, the individual will be required to attend regular appointments with their social worker to develop and agree a Case Management Plan – this detail the expectations, interventions and supports that will form the basis of supervision. Failure to comply with this plan or the Licence conditions can result in a breach application being submitted to the Parole Board with the ultimate sanction of Licence revocation and recall to custody.

Where the custodial term is short and there is no requirement to comply with Statutory Throughcare, East Lothian JSW provide a Voluntary Throughcare (VTC) Service. The workers will maintain contact during a sentence and, where an individual takes up the service, visit them in the final 12 weeks to identify key barriers and challenges of returning to the local community. The support is available for 12 months following release and the workers focus on addressing welfare, social inclusion and emotional needs with referral and sign posting to community resources. Many people subject to short-term sentences have multiple needs with a high incidence of substance misuse, housing instability, financial hardship, mental & physical health problems, unemployment and/or deprivation. Many will lose their home or employment due to their sentence and this can precipitate a downward spiral of need, resulting in further offending or risky behaviour and periods of imprisonment – this is the revolving door of short-term prison sentences that recent legislation is trying to prevent.

JSW is also involved in various projects and initiatives to reduce individuals' risks of reoffending and support the provision of best outcomes for people on the justice pathway and these include:

- Diversion from prosecution reports and interventions
- Bail supervision services
- Individual and group work provisions – offence-focused desistance interventions alongside emotional and self-management techniques/development
- Community Justice planning
- Welfare and advocacy support
- Various activities and partnerships relating to the protection of vulnerable adults and children, as well as general public protection forums.

In terms of strategic commissioning, resource management and efficiency the Justice Social Work service have re-introduced the Senior Practitioner post (via the CJP) and this has supported developmental work to:

- Improve partnership working with colleagues in housing and substance misuse services
Increase efficacy and Governance of the CONNECT Group
- Increased women's access to welfare benefits through the "Women's Fund" project with CAB
- Improved oversight of non-statutory interventions, with specific reference to Voluntary Throughcare

Community Payback Orders with unpaid work/other activity continues to be a core component of Justice Social Work business in East Lothian. In 2018/19 the number of hours issued by Court was 11,909 and this represented a 10% increase whereas the number of hours completed was 14,951, indicating a drop of 5%. The highlighted projects undertaken include:

- Ground care management and development work with Muirfield Riding Therapy – this project uses the horse’s motion to improve an individual’s physical or mental health and well-being.
- The Garden Project - established as a partnership with the Tenancy Support Team to clear or upgrade gardens of residents who have mental health or vulnerability issues.
- The Children’s Service’s Fostering and Adoption Team were supported throughout the year by the siting and relocation of publicity boards for the service.

4.0 National Outcomes and Indicators

Community Justice Scotland has developed a set of common outcomes and indicators which are linked to encouraging an individual’s desistance from offending. These outcomes and indicators are applicable at local level and are referred to as nationally determined outcomes in the Community Justice Scotland Act 2016. The common outcomes are both person-centric and structural and have been developed from an evidential base strongly aligned to supporting an individual’s desistance from offending. Statutory Community Justice Partners have more direct control over structural outcomes. Here, universal and targeted services and measures can be put in place to address structural outcomes which are influenced by complex and multiple inequalities and multiple and intersectional issues relating to poverty, deprivation and marginalisation¹⁹. Person-centric outcomes may be strongly related to structural inequalities, and intersectional issues relating to poverty, deprivation and marginalisation. In particular, the psycho-social impacts of poverty, social exclusion and marginalisation have been strongly evidenced as being detrimental to mental health and well-being. Whilst Community Justice Partners have less direct control over these impacts partners still play a key role in supporting and delivering more positive person-centric outcomes by working together to develop and deliver relevant and effective programmes for individuals who have come into contact with Community Justice Services. Person Centric outcomes are often linked to promoting desistance in order to preventing and reduce further offending.

4.1 The Outcomes, Performance and Improvement (OPI) Framework

The OPI framework was initially developed to address the need to accurately measure, understand, evidence and cost out for community justice models. The framework also enables the sharing of good practice and transparency to ensure the delivery of improved outcomes whilst also highlighting the impact that community justice services have on the lives of individuals who come into contact with community justice services. The framework enables community justice partnership to measure progress, drive improvement and link decisions to analysis of need and what works in their local areas. In particular the framework allows community justice partners at local level and Community Justice Scotland to communicate good practice whilst also identify issues and barriers and evaluate the impact of services on person-centric outcomes.

5.0 Methodology

The East Lothian Community Justice Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment is informed by a broad range of evidence. It is based on an analysis of both internally recorded data and empirical data in the public domain at local and national level. The analysis also draws on theoretical understandings of key areas related to the economic, social and psycho-social factors underlying re-offending and desistance at both a person centric and structural level. This Strategic Assessment provides intelligence on community justice issues and challenges that impact on the health and well-

being of people who come into contact with community justice services in East Lothian particularly within the context of the profound public health and socio-economic challenges emerging from the Covid 19 health pandemic and the UK's imminent departure from the European Union on December 31st 2020.

6.0. Criminal Proceedings and Reconviction Rates:

Background

Community Payback Orders (CPO's) were set up by the Scottish Government in 2011. A CJSWR is normally required before a judge can sentence someone to a CPO, however there are occasions when such a report is not required, for example when the CPO is not above level one of the unpaid work requirement - between 20 and 100 hours. The CJSWR is very important for pre-sentencing as it provides the sentencer with background information about the person including previous offences, their risk of offending again, their need to change their offending behaviour and their health and living situation. When an individual is made subject to a CPO with a supervision requirement there is close liaison between the Justice Social Worker and key professionals including, Police Scotland, NHS and Social Care Professionals, Community Councils and Voluntary groups.

There are nine different requirements that can be given as part of a CPO and it is the judge that decides which ones should be selected and this decision will be based on the nature of the offence, the analysis of offending behaviour and specific risks and needs that the individual presents.

Supervision by a Justice Social Worker is the second most common requirement of a CPO. Here, the person is required to attend regular appointments with a social worker to support them in addressing what makes them offend and comply with the requirements of the CPO. There are also expectations for individuals to attend programmed interventions and these may relate to domestic abuse, sexual offences, substance misuse etc. These programmes may be linked with three further requirements which may be issued by the judge as part of the Community Payback Order. The three requirements are:

1. Treatment for mental health

If the person has been diagnosed with a mental health condition that contributes to their offending behaviour, they can receive treatment and support. This support can include attending medical clinics, receiving counselling, in patient hospital treatment of any other treatment recommended by a doctor.

2. Treatment for drug problems

If the person has a drug problem which has contributed to their offending they are entitled to treatment under this requirement. In this case the person may be ordered to get treatment through a specific clinic or hospital.

3. Treatment for alcohol problems

If the person has an alcohol problem which has contributed to their offending behaviour, they can be ordered to attend a clinic or receive counselling.

The Impact of the Covid 19 Pandemic on Mental Health Services in East Lothian

The current Covid 19 Pandemic has impacted upon the provision of treatments and this has had an impact on people accessing these services as part of CPO's. This may have an impact on future reoffending rates in East Lothian and across Scotland. It is important to consider ways of delivering treatments within a Covid 19 public health context particularly as recent figures show that the number of people experiencing mental health problems in East Lothian and Scotland has risen for all age groups.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in Scotland and East Lothian

The table below provides information on all referrals to CAMHS by NHS Board of treatment for the quarter April to June 2020. This is presented as the rate per 1,000 people under the age of 18. NHS Lothian along with NHS Borders, NHS Dumfries & Galloway; NHS Fife; NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde; NHS Highland; NHS Lothian; and NHS Shetland has a higher rate of referral than the Scotland rate.

Table: 1 Referrals to CAMHS by NHS Board of Treatment, April to June 2020^{1,2,3,4,5}

NHS Board of Treatment	All referrals		Referrals excluding rejected referrals	
	Number of referrals	Referrals per 1,000 people under 18	Number of referrals	Referrals per 1,000 people under 18
NHS Scotland	3,987	3.9	3,064	3.0
NHS Ayrshire & Arran ¹	234	3.4	165	2.4
NHS Borders	85	4.0	59	2.8
NHS Dumfries & Galloway ²	127	4.9	105	4.0
NHS Fife ³	288	4.0	209	2.9
NHS Forth Valley ⁴	169	2.9	107	1.8
NHS Grampian	352	3.1	274	2.4
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	914	4.1	820	3.7
NHS Highland	236	4.0	210	3.6
NHS Lanarkshire	416	3.1	193	1.5
NHS Lothian	825	4.9	706	4.2
NHS Orkney	12	3.0	12	3.0
NHS Shetland	19	4.1	11	2.3
NHS Tayside ⁵	294	3.9	177	2.3
NHS Western Isles	16	3.3	16	3.3

- National Records Scotland [Mid-Year Population](#) estimates for 2019 have been used to calculate referral rates.

1. NHS Ayrshire and Arran included internal referrals from February 2020 in error and have revised their figures.
2. NHS Dumfries and Galloway do not include Child Psychology Service data due to system issues.
3. NHS Fife have excluded Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) activity from November 2019, more information can be found in the data quality document.
4. Due to a systems change to TrakCare, NHS Forth Valley are not confident about the accuracy of their reported data from April 2019.
5. NHS Tayside CAMHS from April 2019 have altered the reporting on neurodevelopmental cases, differentiating these from the (mental health) CAMHS cases.

The Impact of the Covid 19 Pandemic on Domestic Violence in East Lothian

One area of concern is the impact of lockdown itself on mental health and levels of domestic violence.²⁰ Here, timely treatment for mental health is important for the victims of domestic violence including partners and children and for the perpetrators of domestic violence. A particular issue during the Covid 19 Pandemic is Social Isolation. The Domestic Abuse Scotland Act 2019 has broadened the criteria to encompass issues that may be compounded by being forced into lockdown with abusive partners. In May, 2020, 257 offences designated under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act which came into force in April 2019 were recorded in the Lothian Region. The Domestic Abuse Scotland Act made psychological cruelty and emotional treatment a crime alongside physical abuse. This takes place when abusers isolate their victim from friends and relatives or control their finances according to data from Police Scotland. Most of the cases, 205 were recorded in Edinburgh with 20 offences recorded in East Lothian and West Lothian and 12 recorded in Midlothian. The table below provides details of crimes committed in East Lothian in 2019- 2020. A number of studies have evidenced the gendered characteristics of the economic and health impacts of COVID-19²¹. In particular women are more likely to work in sectors hit by social distancing rules such as services. Here the hospitality and non-food retail sectors have been particularly hard hit. Women are more likely to occupy occupations within the caring sector and act as informal carers at home particularly if a member of their family is ill or has to be isolated (either elderly or young). Women are also more likely to be affected by school and nursery closures. Moreover, social isolation restrictions will compound women and girls' vulnerability to domestic abuse.

Table 2 Crimes committed in East Lothian 2019-2020

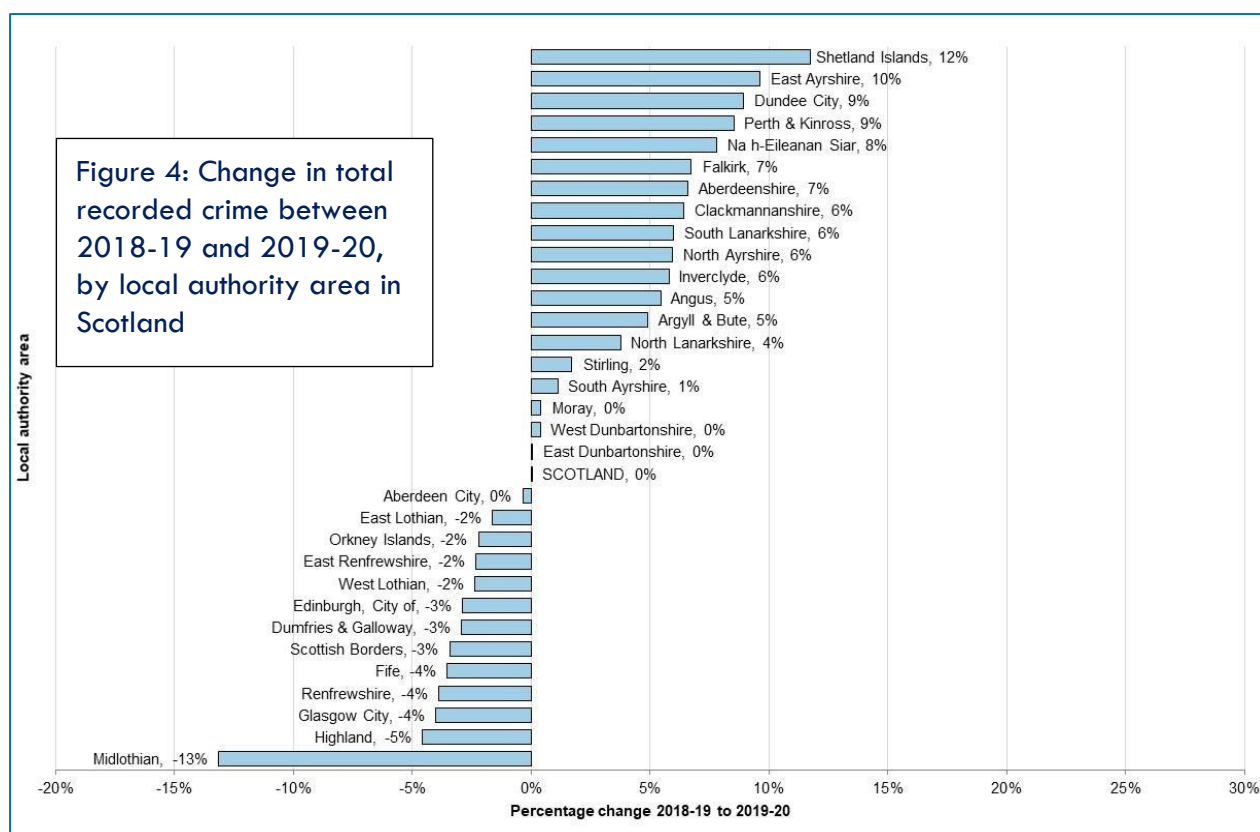
Type of Crime	Nonsexual crimes of violence	Sexual crimes	Crimes of dishonesty	Fire raising; vandalism, etc.	Other crimes	Coronavirus restrictions
No of offences	89	196	1,923	873	854	0

Table 3: CRIMES COMMITTED IN EAST LoTHIAN: 2019 and 2020

	April	April	% Change since
Crime group	2019	2020	April 2019
Total Crimes¹	305	290	-5%
Non-sexual crimes of violence	7	7	0%
Homicide etc.	-	-	-
Attempted murder & serious assault	3	1	-67%
Robbery	1	1	0%
Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018	2	1	-50%
Other violence	1	4	300%
Sexual crimes	14	16	14%
Rape & attempted rape	4	-	not recorded
Sexual assault	7	9	29%
Crimes associated with prostitution	-	-	not recorded
Other sexual crimes	3	7	133%
Crimes of dishonesty	168	137	-18%
Housebreaking	16	19	19%
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	2	-	n/r
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	4	11	175%
Theft of a motor vehicle	8	8	n/r
Shoplifting	60	16	-73%
Other theft	55	44	-20%
Fraud	14	19	36%
Other dishonesty	9	20	122%
Fire-raising, vandalism etc.	62	43	-31%
Fire-raising	4	3	-25%
Vandalism etc.	58	40	-31%
Other crimes	54	87	61%
Crimes against public justice	25	27	8%
Handling offensive weapons	4	7	75%
Not used in other criminal activity	1	-	n/r
Used in other criminal activity	3	7	133%
Drugs	24	53	121%
Other	1	-	n/r

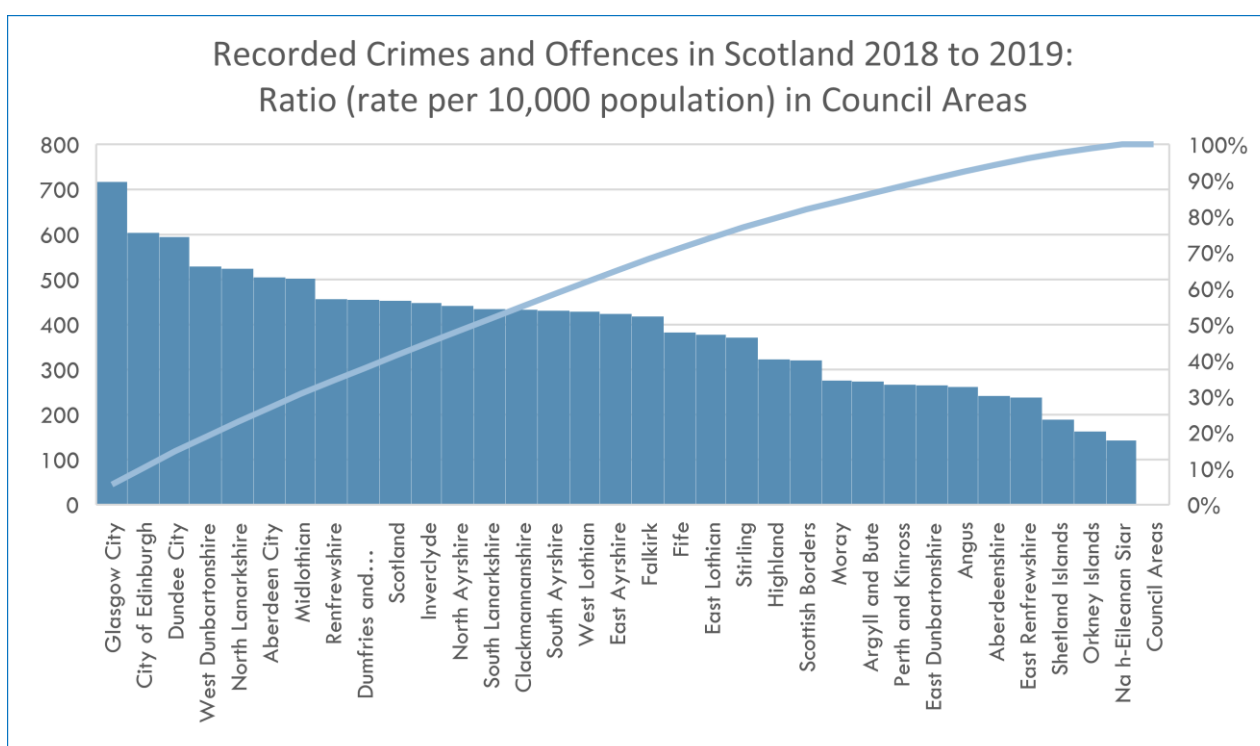
1. The total figure for recorded crime excludes the new crimes being recorded under the recently enacted coronavirus legislation. Please see the Crimes recorded under coronavirus legislation section below for more information.

Source: Scottish Government: Recorded Crime in Scotland: published 04-06-2020: Accessed: 27-07-2020



As Table 4 above shows East Lothian compares favourably with other Local Authorities in Scotland in terms of the percentage change in total recorded crime between 2018-19 and 2019-20. Moreover as Figure 5 below shows East Lothian has a relatively low rate of recorded crimes and offences in Scotland per 10,000 population when compared to local authorities with a similar demographic, economic and social profile in Scotland.

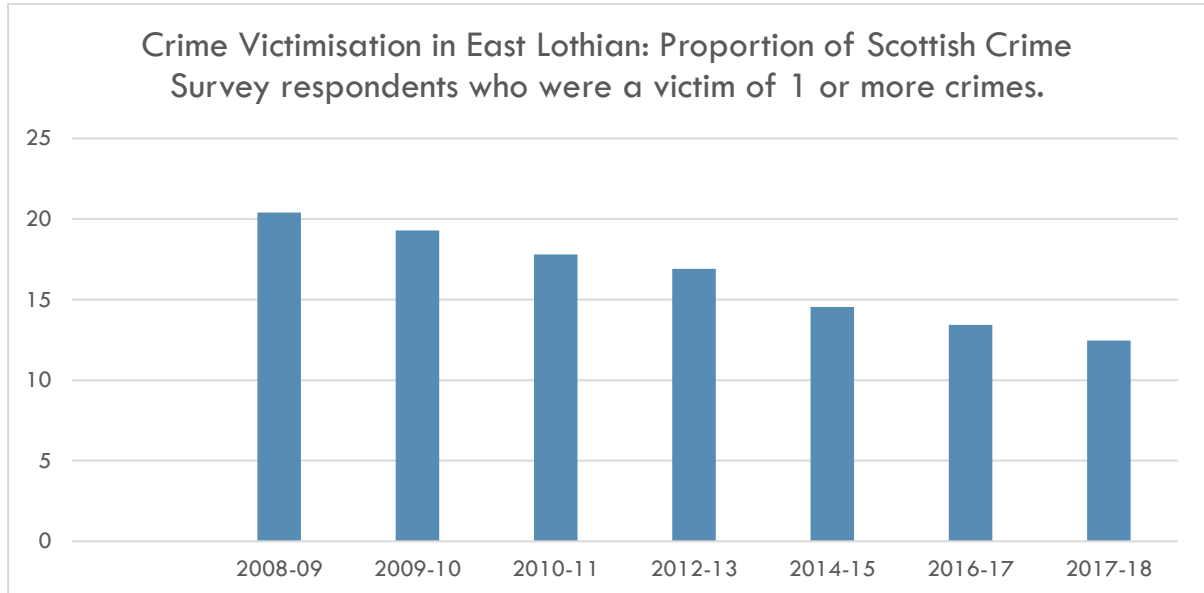
Figure 5:



Scottish Crime Survey: Victimisation in East Lothian

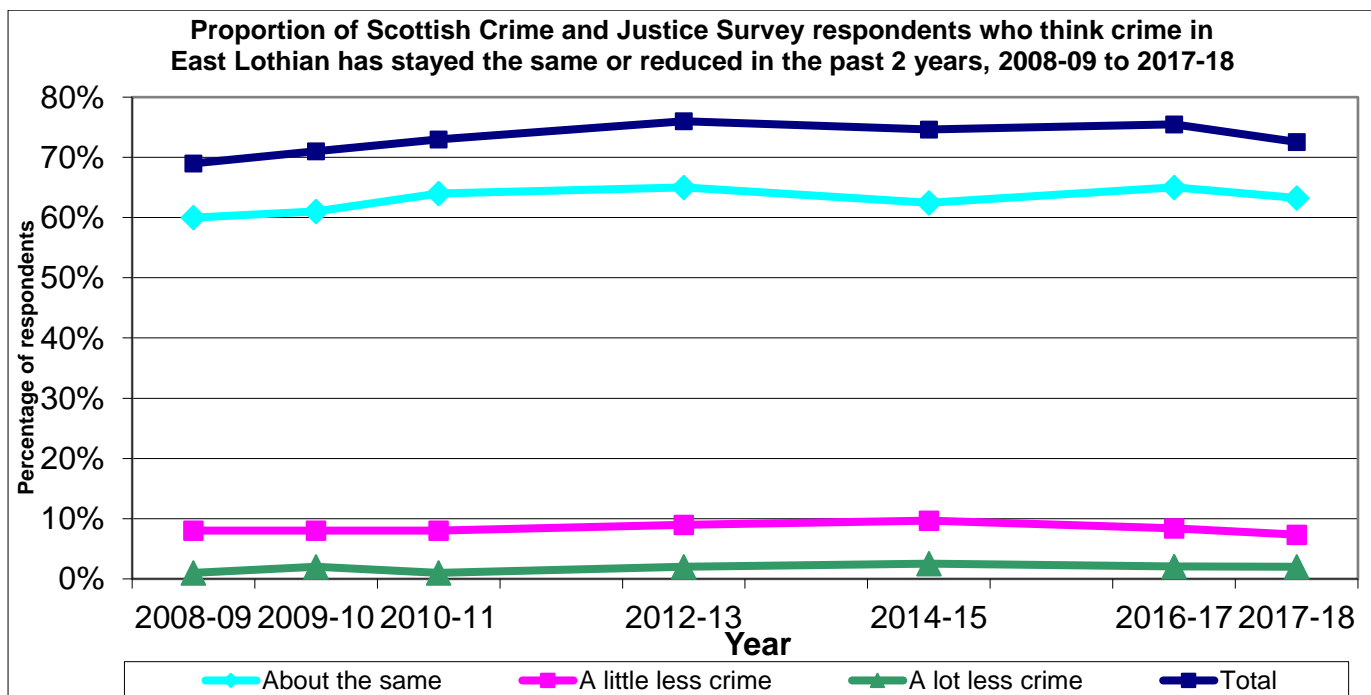
Longitudinal analysis of levels of Crime Victimisation in East Lothian documented by The Scottish Crime Survey between 2008 and 2018 reveals a significant decrease from 20.4 respondents in 2007-2008 to 12.5 respondents in 2017-2018 who were a victim of one or more crimes.

Figure: 6



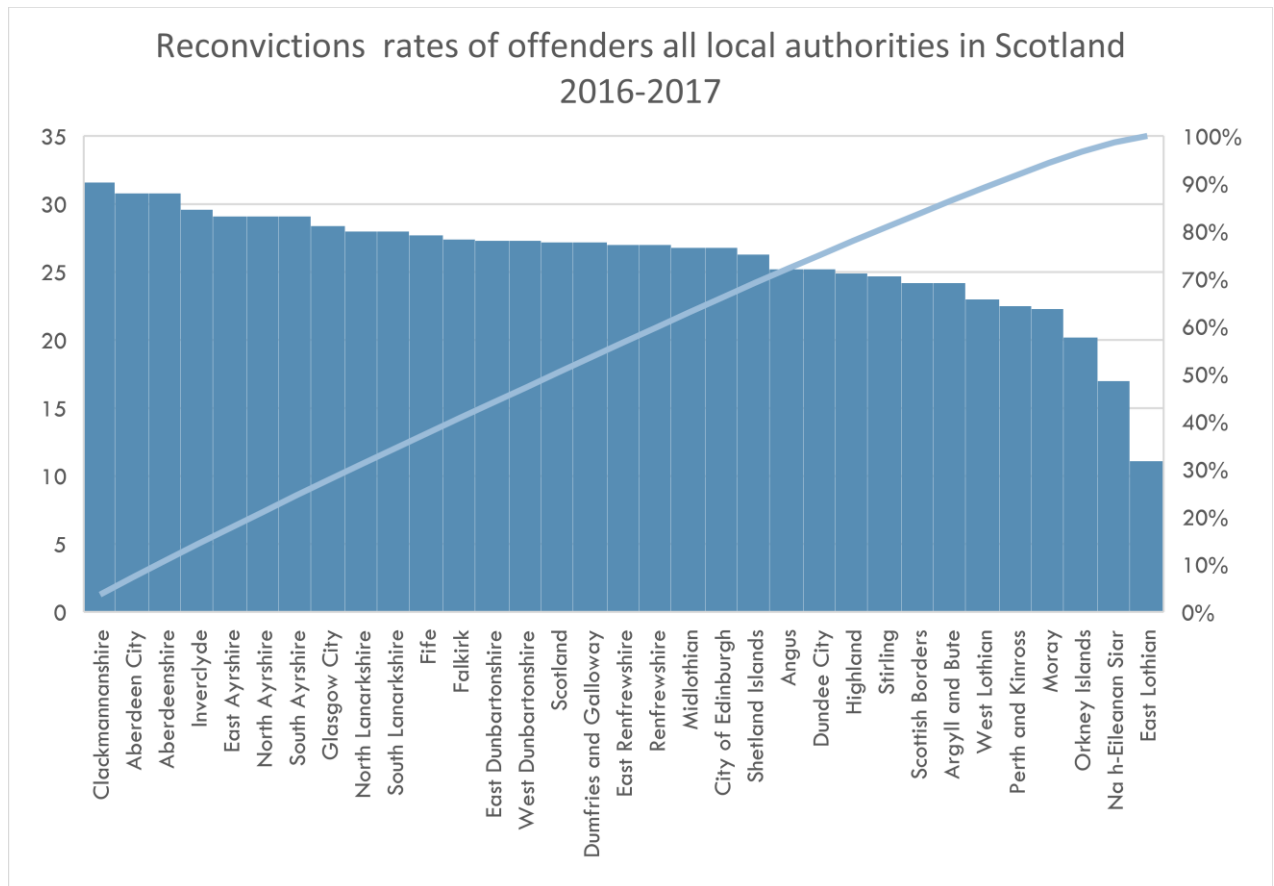
Despite this trend the proportion of Scottish Crime and Justice Survey respondents who think that crime in East Lothian has stayed the same or reduced has remained fairly constant over the period between 2008 and 2018.

Figure: 7



As Figure 8 shows this perception of crime rates was certainly consistent with a comparative evaluation of reconviction rates of offenders in all local authorities in Scotland which revealed East Lothian as having the lowest reconviction rate in Scotland in 2016-2017. However, recent data released by the Scottish Government reveals that in 2017-2018 reconviction rates in East Lothian increased.

Figure: 8 Reconviction rates of Offenders:



Reconviction rates and average number of reconvictions per offender, by local authority based on residence of offenders: 2017-18 cohort¹

Local Authority	Number of offenders	Reconviction rate	Average number of reconvictions per offender
All	36,700	26.3	0.46
Aberdeen City	1,808	32.8	0.66
Aberdeenshire	1,024	28.1	0.52
Angus	618	24.3	0.43
Argyll & Bute	350	22.3	0.32
Clackmannanshire	356	27.5	0.54
Dumfries & Galloway	958	29.1	0.46
Dundee City	1,154	26.7	0.47
East Ayrshire	752	25.1	0.42
East Dunbartonshire	276	20.3	0.34
East Lothian	387	24.3	0.42
East Renfrewshire	286	24.1	0.35
Edinburgh, City of	2,143	25.8	0.44
Falkirk	953	28.6	0.51
Fife	2,110	25.2	0.42
Glasgow City	4,362	26.6	0.45
Highland	1,153	26.3	0.48
Inverclyde	375	26.9	0.42
Midlothian	422	22.5	0.43
Moray	558	24.2	0.40
Na h-Eileanan Siar	78	17.9	0.33
North Ayrshire	712	21.9	0.36
North Lanarkshire	1,894	24.0	0.40
Orkney Islands	63	20.6	0.24
Perth & Kinross	608	23.5	0.39
Renfrewshire	795	22.1	0.37
Scottish Borders	438	21.9	0.38
Shetland Islands	119	11.8	0.14
South Ayrshire	472	26.7	0.53
South Lanarkshire	1,699	24.7	0.41
Stirling	398	24.1	0.45
West Dunbartonshire	563	29.1	0.44
West Lothian	875	22.3	0.32
Other ²	649	9.2	0.13
Unknown ³	7,292	29.9	0.56

1. These data are classed as [Experimental Statistics: Data being developed](#), as the data are not yet of sufficient quality to be labelled as National Statistics.

2. Includes convictions for offenders with a postcode in England, Northern Ireland, Wales, or a Crown Dependency. Note that these only include convictions in Scottish Courts. Offenders may have other convictions in other countries which are not counted here, so they are not comparable to the data for Scotland or Scottish local authorities.

3. Unknown local authority is where data were not available on the first part of an offenders' postcode so they could not be assigned to a local authority. This also includes a small number where postcodes were supplied, but they were not valid Scottish postcodes.

Postcode Data Quality

From the 2015-16 cohort publication onwards, we have published reconviction rates for local authorities based on offenders' home postcode (Table 13) alongside the reconviction rates for local authorities based on court location (Table 12).

Previously we could only calculate reconviction rates for local authorities based on the court location of where offenders were convicted, as this was the only geographical information that we had. This approach has limitations, because some court areas cover multiple local authorities and offenders may be convicted for crimes committed in different areas to where they live. In particular, these figures are not fully suitable for local authority community justice partners, as they have a need for reconviction figures for offenders who live in their area for planning purposes, such as: schemes to reduce reoffending, or estimating the number of offenders that social workers need to supervise in their area.

We started receiving data from Police Scotland on the first half of an offender's postcode in 2014, and coverage was high enough from 2015-16 onwards to start using the data. With the first half of an offender's postcode we can match offenders to their home local authority and calculate reconviction rates based on offenders' home local authority.

We are classifying the reconviction rates for local authorities based on the postcode data as Experimental Statistics: Data being developed, as the data are of insufficient quality to be labelled as National Statistics as the rest of the data in this publication are. We did not have postcodes for a fifth of offenders (20%) with an index conviction in 2017-18, and we are unsure of how this may affect the reconviction rates.

All offenders residing in the local authority group, Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian were convicted in Edinburgh Sheriff Court. The table below shows the percentage of offenders living in each local authority who were convicted in Edinburgh Sheriff Court. Offenders convicted in Edinburgh Sheriff Court between 2017 and 2018. Critically however, Table (below) shows that 21% of offenders convicted in the Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian local authority group had missing postcodes. This missing data seriously undermines the reliability of data relating to reconviction rates within each local authority. Whilst postcodes may be missing because offenders have no fixed abode this may also be a recording issue. Critically also, 11% of offenders are from local authorities out-with Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian. Overall, this shows that there are significant percentages of offenders convicted in Edinburgh Sheriff Court who reside in local authorities which are out-with Edinburgh City.

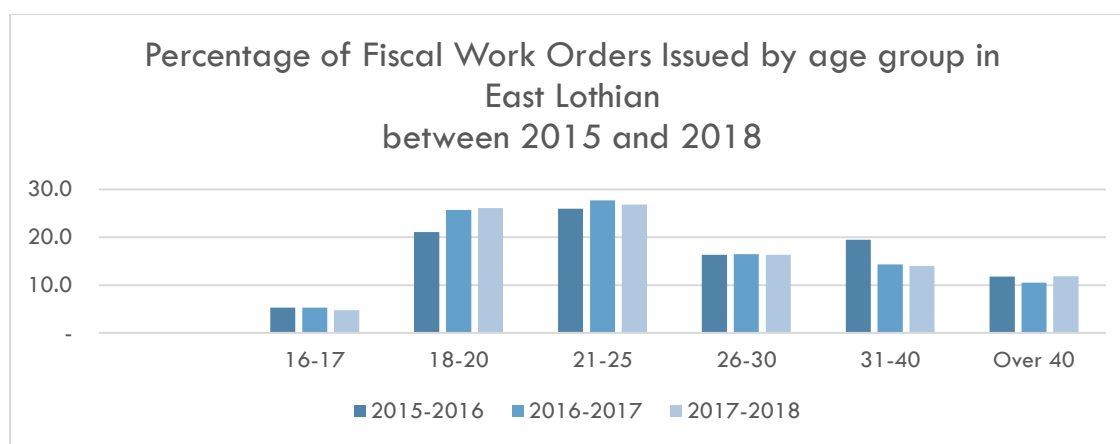
Table Postcode coverage of Offenders within Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian Local Authority Group

LOCAL AUTHORITY GROUP (based on court location at Edinburgh Sheriff Court)	Offender's local authority	Number	LA group
Edinburgh, East Lothian, and Midlothian	East Lothian	355	9%
	Edinburgh, City of	1,912	49%
	Midlothian	391	10%
	other LA	437	11%
	Missing	818	21%

The Age Profile of Offenders in East Lothian

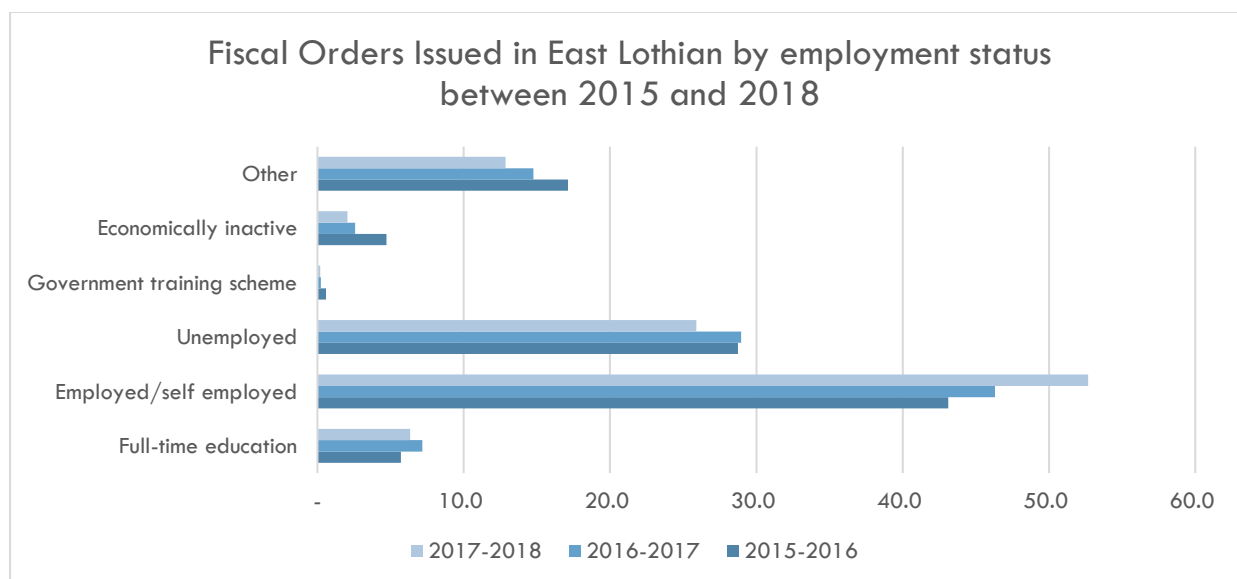
A central consideration in the evaluation of criminal convictions and re-conviction rates in East Lothian is the age profile of individuals who are subject to the different interventions within the Case Management Process. As Table below shows between 2015 and 2018 the greatest proportion of Fiscal Work Orders issued between 2015 and 2018 were issued to young people aged between 18 and 25. The percentage of young people aged between 18 and 20 issued with Fiscal Work Orders has risen from 21.1 in 2015 to 26.1 in 2018. The age group issued with the lowest percentage of Fiscal Work Orders are 16-17-year olds with the over 40 age group being subject to the second lowest percentage. It is notable that there has been a significant drop in the number of Fiscal Work Orders issued to 31-40-year-old age group. Here, in 2015, 19.5% of this age group were issued with Fiscal Work Orders in contrast to 14.0% in 2018.

Figure 9



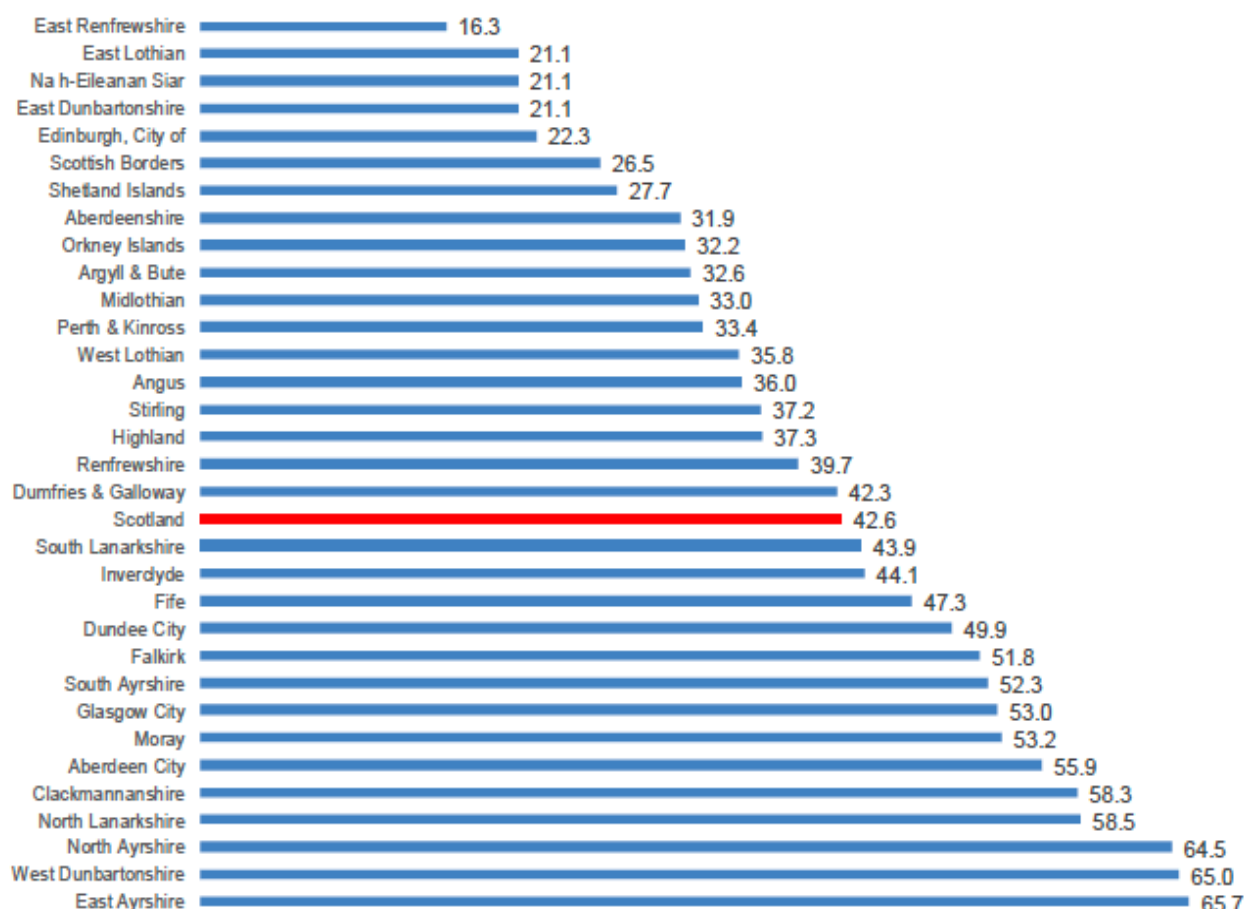
Source: The Scottish Public Health Observatory: <https://www.scotpho.org.uk/comparative-health/profiles/online-profiles-tool/> [calculated from data extracted 28-08-2020]

Figure 10:



Source: The Scottish Public Health Observatory: <https://www.scotpho.org.uk/comparative-health/profiles/online-profiles-tool/> [calculated from data extracted 03-09-2020]

Figure 11: Number of community payback orders imposed per 10,000 population in Scotland: Breakdown by local authority area, 2018-19



6.1 The Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI): Pre-Sentences Reports and Timely, Appropriate Interventions to reduce Re-offending.

Introduction

Risk assessments are crucial in aiding criminal justice practitioners because they provide a standardized instrument that aims to identify risk factors that may influence whether an individual will reoffend. This helps to tailor the individual case management process to ensure offenders are accessing the appropriate services to improve levels of desistance and reduce levels of re-offending to keep the community safe from future reoffending. Particular issues can arise when sentencing people with mental welfare difficulties. The Scottish Sentencing Council recently held a discussion event focussing upon the issues that can arise when sentencing people with mental welfare issues²². In particular the Council was keen to gain input into a range of matters including current difficulties or challenges when sentencing and any issues which should be considered in order to inform sentencing guidelines in the future. The key questions addressed were

1. What issues can arise when offenders with mental welfare difficulties are sentenced?
2. How should the courts approach the sentencing of such individuals?
3. What should (or should not) be the main purpose(s) of sentencing?
4. What factors might the court need to consider?
5. What information might the court need to obtain in order to impose an appropriate sentence?
6. What might be the features of an appropriate and effective sentence?

The Scottish Sentencing Council's report outlined a range of issues within the statutory definition of mental disorder and acknowledged that there are many differing views as to whether a guideline should list specific types of mental disorder. However, it was noted that a reference point for a draft guideline on sentencing offenders with mental health disorders or conditions could be informed by the consultation document published by the Sentencing Council for England and Wales in April 2019²³

This guideline lists the main classes of mental disorders and presenting features to be considered during pre-sentencing.

Main classes of mental disorders and presenting features

1. Developmental disorders, e.g. Autism Spectrum Disorder and learning disabilities
2. Psychotic illnesses, e.g. schizophrenia and bipolar illness
3. Non-psychotic illnesses, e.g. depression, anxiety and PTSD
4. Substance misuse disorder (drugs, alcohol)
5. Learning difficulties, e.g. dyslexia
6. Personality disorders
7. Dementia, e.g. Alzheimer's disease
8. Multi-morbidity and comorbidity
9. Acquired brain injury

A central concern of the Scottish Sentencing Council is to ensure that courts have sufficient information when sentencing offenders with mental welfare difficulties. There are three main sources of information to the court.

- (i) The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service ("COPFS")
- (ii) The defence
- (iii) Reports (primarily criminal justice social work reports, or "CJSWRs").

A key issue identified by the Scottish Sentencing Council is that decisions are often made within a tight timeline. Critically, COPFS may not learn about an individual's mental health issues until after the decision to prosecute or following sentencing. This shows that there is an urgent need to improve information sharing between the organisations involved.

The sharing of information held by local authorities was also recognised as a challenge in the report particularly given that there are 32 local authorities operating 32 different systems. Offenders may come with a personal escort record but not a full psychiatric report or psychological assessment if one has been prepared. This might affect, at least in the initial stages of a custodial sentence, the identification of suitable programmes for the offender. Importantly the report suggests that the level of resources and support available to offenders through drug treatment and testing orders, together with the multi-disciplinary approach of such orders, is not generally available to offenders with mental welfare difficulties. It was suggested that if such an approach was available, it might be more effective than a community payback order with a mental health treatment requirement.

The report also noted that courts often require reports from mental health officers ("MHOs") not just from medical professionals. Although there are processes in place to enable effective working with medical professionals the report also notes that these processes are not as readily available in relation to MHOs. Another key issue noted by the report is that effective communication channels and partnership arrangements are not clearly evident particularly when preparing the Criminal Justice Social Work Report. While not a matter within the Council's remit, it was felt that it would be helpful for courts and local authorities to consider how they engage with MHOs with a view to establishing agreed procedures and points of contact. The report also comments on the number of mental health disposals at sentencing was noted as being very low and recommended that a package of measures similar to those available under drug treatment and testing orders be developed by adopting the same

multi-disciplinary approach, and providing the same type of care and support. The Structured Deferred Sentence court was suggested as a type of monitoring and support that the court with the appropriate level of support from the local authority and social work – could seek to utilise in appropriate cases.

Table 4: Analysis of LSIRSV DATA: East Lothian: 2019 - 2020

Criminogenic Risk Factors:	Two or more prior convictions	Currently Un-employed	Criminal Friends	Alcohol and or Drug Problems	Psychological Assessment	Psychological Assessment Indicated were Alcohol and Drug Problems Indicated	Two or more prior convictions and Alcohol and or Drug Problems indicated	Currently Unemployed and two or more prior convictions
Individuals	110	93	75	79	12	10	36	77

I analysed the LSIR/SV (Level of Service Inventory Revised-Screening Version) data which had been completed by Justice Social Workers as part of their assessment for CJSWR in 2019/20. The data reveals that of 110 individuals out of a total of 146 individuals had two or more prior convictions. Of these, 36 individuals had alcohol or drug problems. This indicates that 33% of individuals with two or more prior convictions had alcohol or drug problems. There is a strong evidential base underlying the association between crime and substance abuse and substance use disorders are also common in criminal justice settings²⁴. Importantly, of the 79 individuals who indicated alcohol and/or drug problems only 10 individuals were provided with a psychological assessments. Thus, a psychological assessment was provided in only 12% of all cases where alcohol and drug problems were presented. As the introduction to this section of the report indicates the Scottish Sentencing Council have recently indicated that substance misuse disorder (drugs, alcohol) should be regarded as one of the ‘main classes of mental disorders and presenting features’. In addition, the Council has indicated that

‘decisions are often made within a tight timeline. Critically, COPFS may not learn about an individual’s mental health issues until after the decision to prosecute or following sentencing. This shows that there is an urgent need to improve information sharing between the organisations involved’

Here, the Scottish Sentencing Council have argued that information relating to mental disorders are critical to pre-sentencing decisions particularly with regard to available disposals in CJSWRs, delays in obtaining psychiatric and psychological reports may limit the courts ability to ensure that appropriate decisions are taken in a timely way. The Scottish Sentencing Council also noted that

“in less acute cases in the sheriff court, psychiatric and psychological reports are not requested as often as they used to be. This was felt to be due to the costs involved and the likelihood of delays. It was observed that courts may also require reports from mental health officers (“MHOs”)4, not just from medical professionals”

The closure of Haddington Sheriff Court in 2015 has created significant delays the way in which cases are processed as all cases are now heard at Edinburgh Sheriff Court. As has been evidenced early in this report demographic pressures related to the projected growth in population and numbers of households in East Lothian combined with socio-economic pressures relating to rising levels of poverty and deprivation in the region may exacerbate these pressures in the short, medium and long

term. Moreover, the specific limitations placed on judicial procedures and processes as a result of the Coronavirus Scotland legislation and general Covid 19 context may also place pressures on these judicial processes. Within this context, it may be suggested that an evaluation of existing processes be undertaken to ascertain current and future constraints arising from the closure of Haddington Sheriff Court. In particular, it would be helpful to ascertain the impact of the closure of Haddington Sheriff Court on information sharing and partnership working to ensure the timely provision of information relevant to pre-sentencing decisions such as Psychological Assessments and Criminal Justice Social Work Reports to ensure that decision making is adequately informed.

At 70% the proportion of individuals, currently unemployed who have two or more prior convictions clearly evidences the complex relationship between structural labour market conditions and re-offending. Here, as has been evidenced in the section below shows there is a substantive evidence base revealing the way in which the socio-economic factors impact on mental health and well-being of individuals, families and communities. At a person-centric level, these factors impact on the psychological, emotional and physical well-being of individuals. At the same time, these factors strongly influence the physical, social and personal resources available for dealing with different environmental stressors, ways of satisfying needs and realising individual potential and well-being²⁵.

7.0 Social Factors and Re-offending

7.1 Introduction

The evidential base underpinning the relationship between social factors and levels of offending and re-offending is well-established.²⁶ The relationship between socio-economic factors often referred to as social determinants and levels of offending and re-offending is highly complex. A burgeoning body of research has evidenced the way in which the mental health and well-being of individuals, families and communities is influenced by a broad continuum of socio-economic factors. At a person-centric level, these factors impact significantly on the physical, psychological and emotional well-being of individuals whilst also influencing the physical, social and personal resources available for dealing with different environmental stressors, ways of satisfying needs and realising individual potential and well-being²⁷. Here, it has been widely argued that poor mental health contributes significantly to broader health problems, including low educational achievement, poor community cohesion, offending behaviour, poor physical health, low life expectancy and premature mortality, relationship breakdown and violence. Conversely as a number of recent studies have shown good mental health leads to better physical health, improved educational attainment and lower levels of violence and crime.²⁸

7.2 Table 5: East Lothian Demographic Profile

7.2.1 East Lothian General Demographic Indicators: 2019

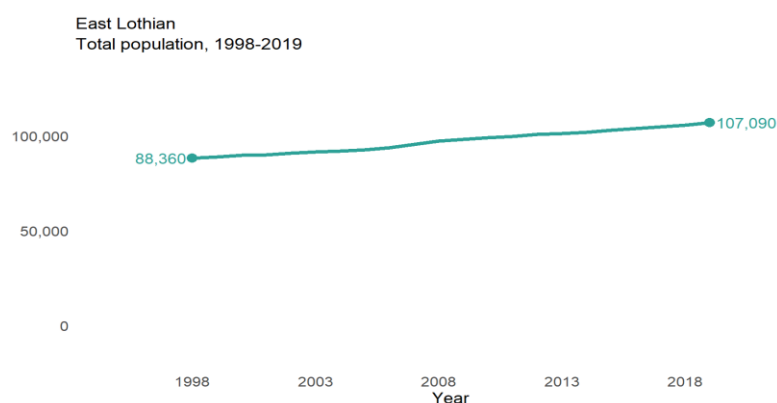
Indicator	Period	East Lothian	Scotland
Population	2019	107,090	5,463,300
Births	2018	1,020	51,308
Deaths	2017	1,056	57,290
Net Migration	2019	1,273	30,246
Number of Households	2019	46,771	2,495,623

8.2.2 Population Growth in East Lothian

Population growth will be a significant factor in future strategic investment decisions in East Lothian. In particular, the projected population profile between 2018 and 2028 the 75 and over age group is projected to see the largest percentage increase (+32.6%).

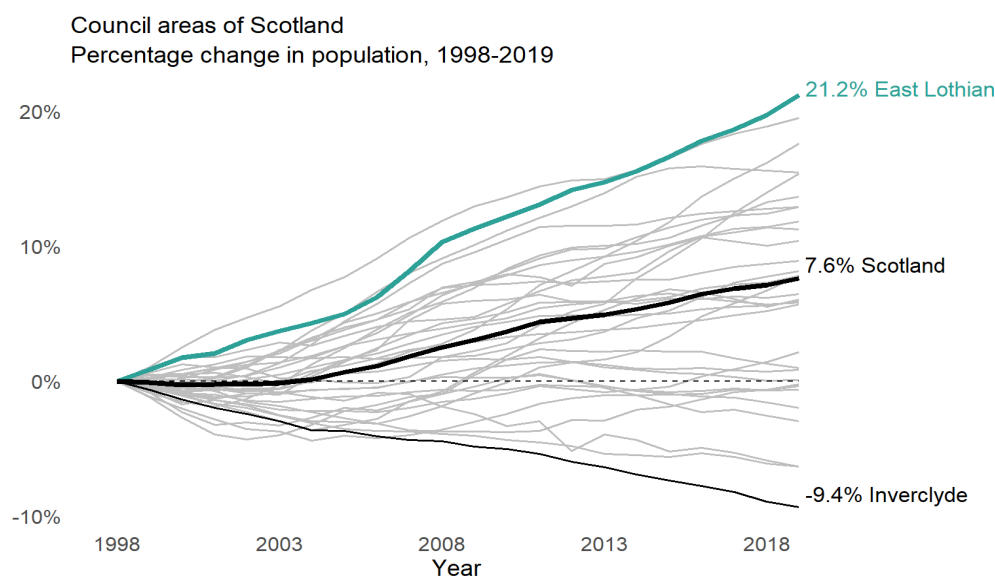
As Figure 12 below shows between 1998 and 2019, the population of East Lothian has increased by 21.2%. This is the highest percentage change out of the 32 council areas in Scotland. Over the same period, Scotland's population rose by 7.6%. On 30 June 2019, the population of East Lothian was 107,090. This is an increase of 1.2% from 105,790 in 2018. Over the same period, the population of Scotland increased by 0.5%.

Figure 12:



As Figure 13 below shows at 21.2% East Lothian has had the highest overall population growth of all 32 Local Authorities in Scotland between 1998-2019.

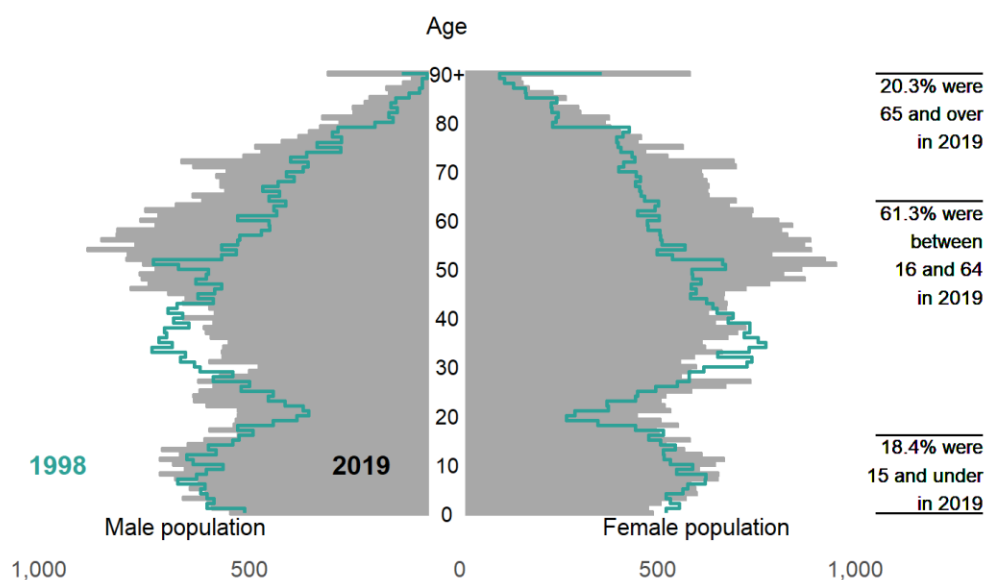
Figure 13: Percentage change in population in all 32 council areas in Scotland



7.2.3: East Lothian Population Profile

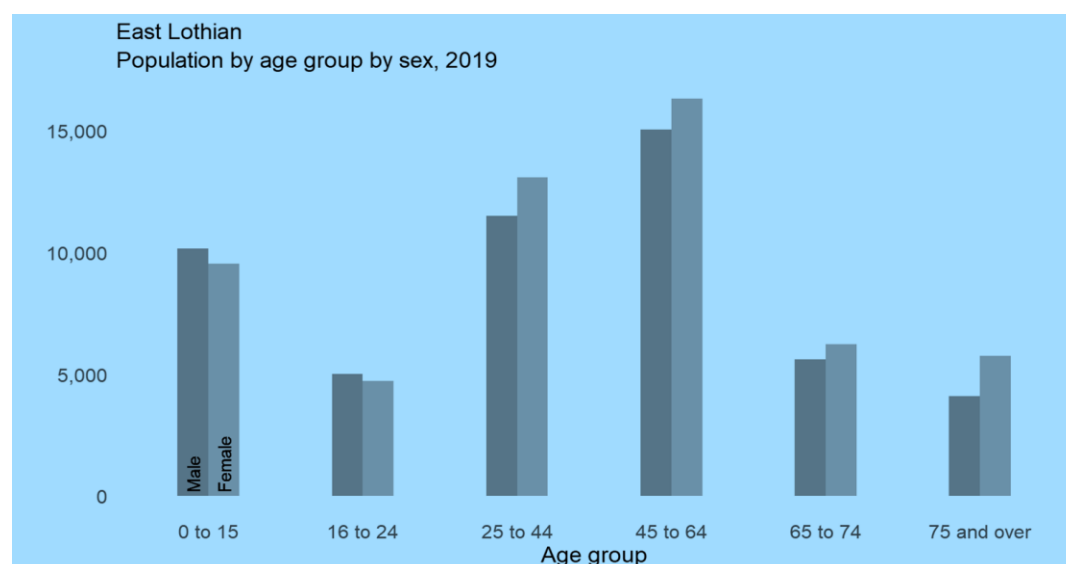
As Figure 14: below shows there has been significant change in the population profile of East Lothian since 1998.

East Lothian
Population profile, 1998 and 2019



In 2019, there were more females (52.0%) than males (48.0%) living in East Lothian. There were also more females (51.3%) than males (48.7%) living in Scotland overall.

Figure 15:

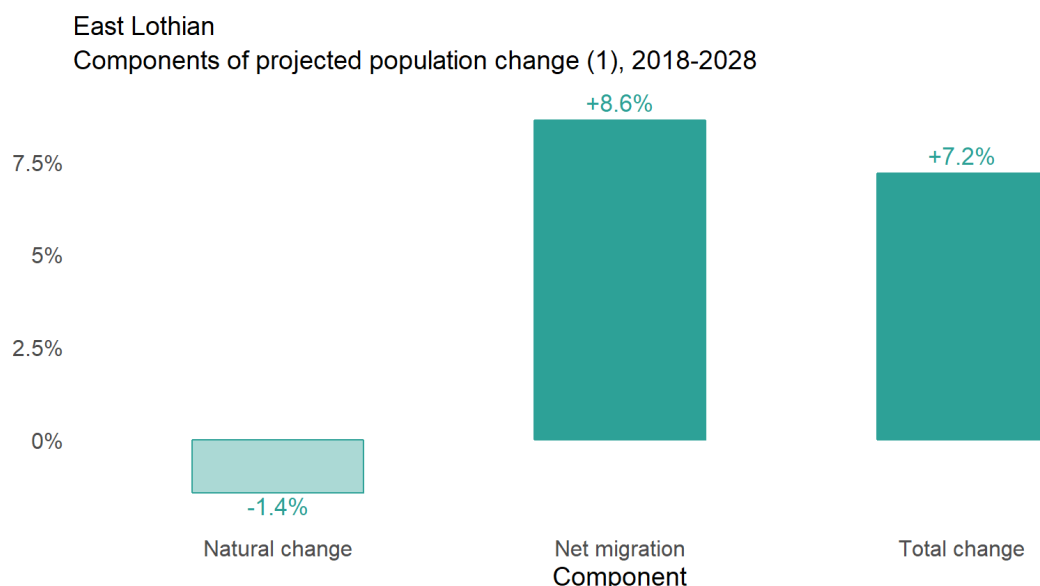


In terms of overall size, the 45 to 64 age group was the largest in 2019, with a population of 31,333. In contrast, the 16 to 24 age group was the smallest, with a population of 9,729. In 2019, more females than males lived in East Lothian in 4 out of 6 age groups.

7.2.3 Project population change in East Lothian

Over the next 10 years, the population of East Lothian is projected to decrease by 1.4% due to natural change (more deaths than births). Total net migration (net migration within Scotland, from overseas and from the rest of the UK) is projected to result in a population increase of 8.6% over the same period.

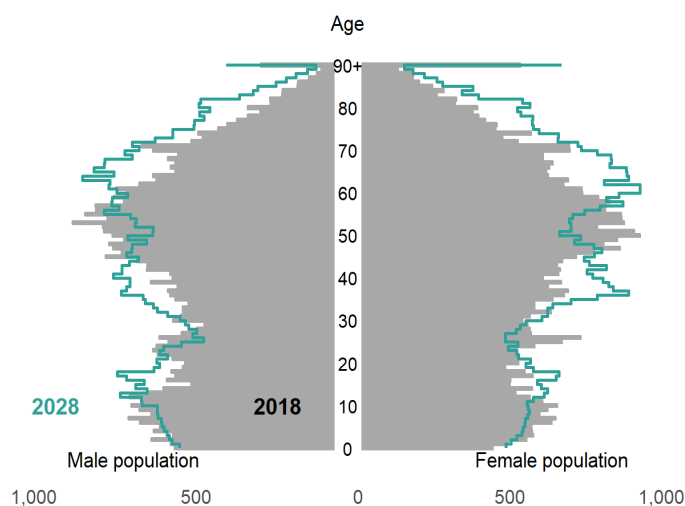
Figure 16:



(1) Projected natural change and net migration are not the only components of change. Other changes that are not included in the above chart include changes in armed forces and prisoner populations, and changes due to constraining to the National Population Projections for Scotland.

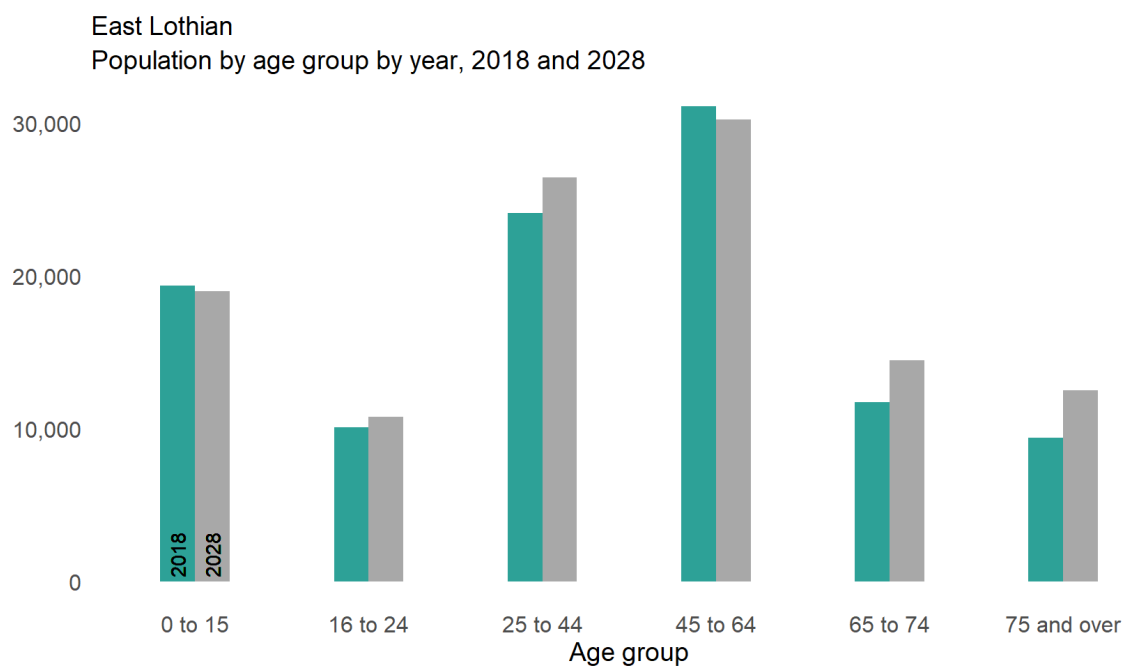
Figure 17

East Lothian
Projected population profile, 2018 and 2028



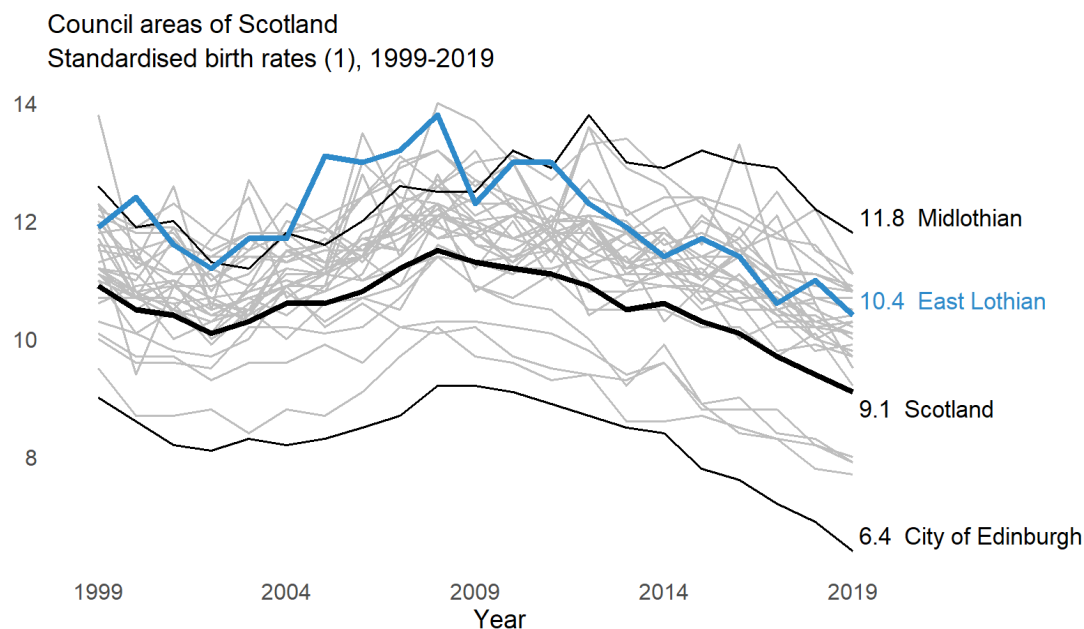
The average age of the population of East Lothian is projected to increase as the baby boomer generation ages and more people are expected to live longer.

Figure18:



Between 2018 and 2028, the 45 to 64 age group is projected to see the largest percentage decrease (-2.8%) and the 75 and over age group is projected to see the largest percentage increase (+32.6%). In terms of size, however, 45 to 64 is projected to remain the largest age group.

Figure 19:

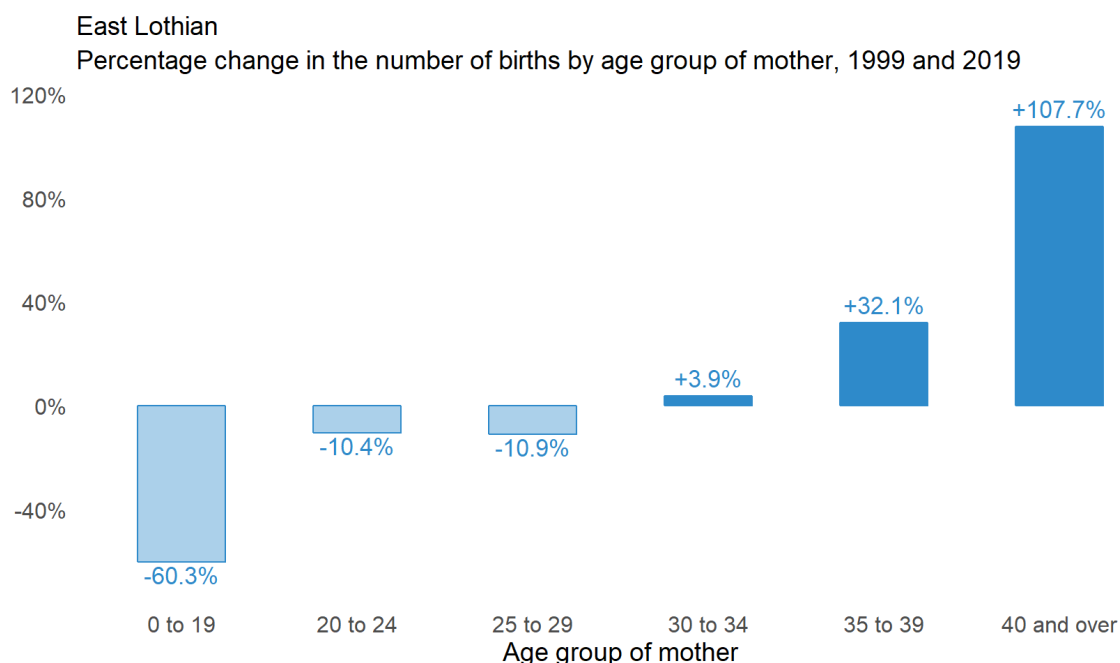


(1) Births per 1,000 population - 'standardised' using the age/sex-specific rates for Scotland as a whole.

In East Lothian, the standardised birth rate decreased from 11.0 per 1,000 population in 2018 to 10.4 in 2019. In comparison, the rate in Scotland overall decreased from 9.4 to 9.1.

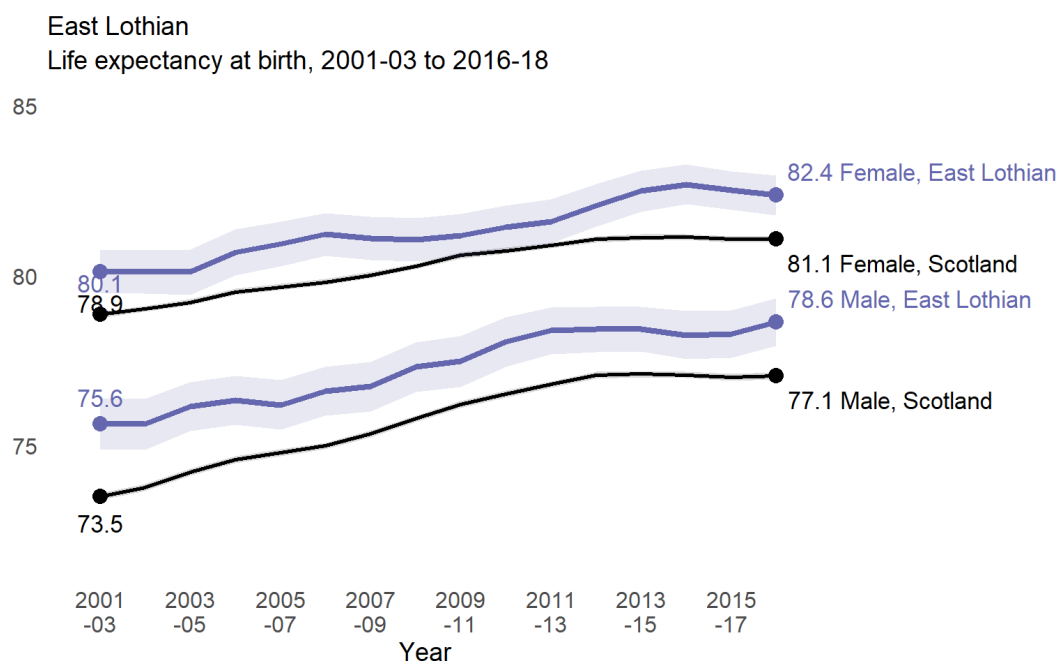
In 2019, East Lothian was the council area with the joint 11th highest standardised birth rate. Between 2018 and 2019, 27 councils saw a decrease in standardised birth rate and 4 councils saw an increase. There was 1 council that saw no change.

Figure 20



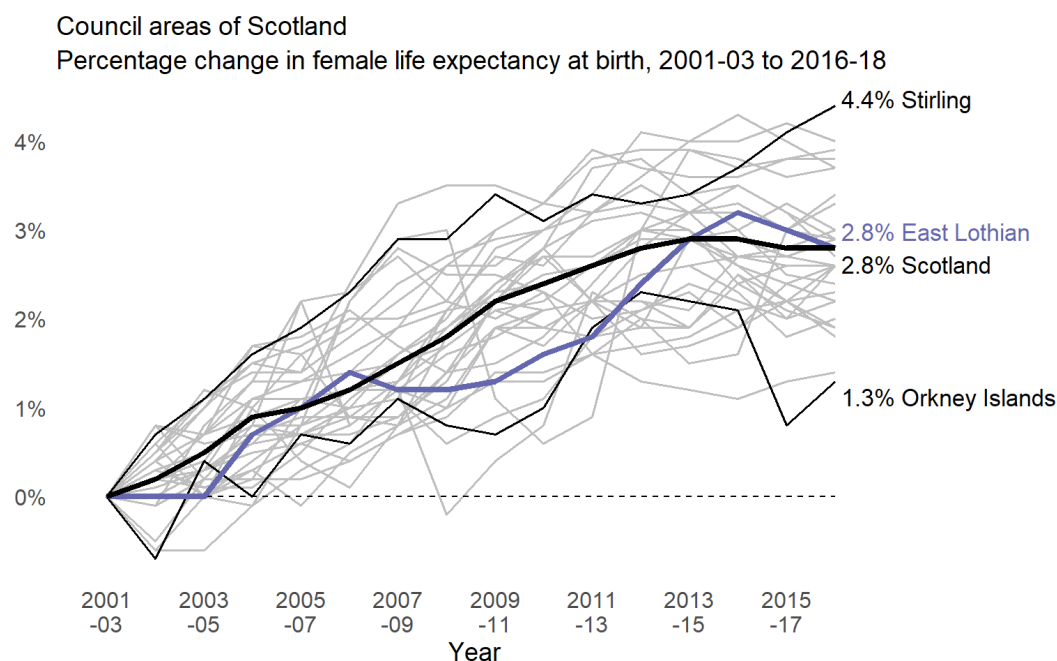
Between 1999 and 2019, the 0 to 19 age group has seen the largest percentage decrease in births (-60.3%) and the 40 and over age group has seen the largest percentage increase in births (+107.7%).

Figure 21:



Life expectancy levels are an important epidemiological indicator of health and well-being. In East Lothian, life expectancy at birth was higher for females (82.4 years) than for males (78.6 years) in 2016-18. Male life expectancy at birth has increased more rapidly than female life expectancy at birth between 2001-03 and 2016-18. In East Lothian, life expectancy at birth is higher than at Scotland level for both females and males.

Figure 22:



Over the period between 2001-03 and 2016-18, female life expectancy at birth in East Lothian has risen by 2.8%. This is the joint 14th highest percentage change out of all 32 council areas in Scotland and this is equal to the percentage change for Scotland overall (+2.8%).

Figure 23

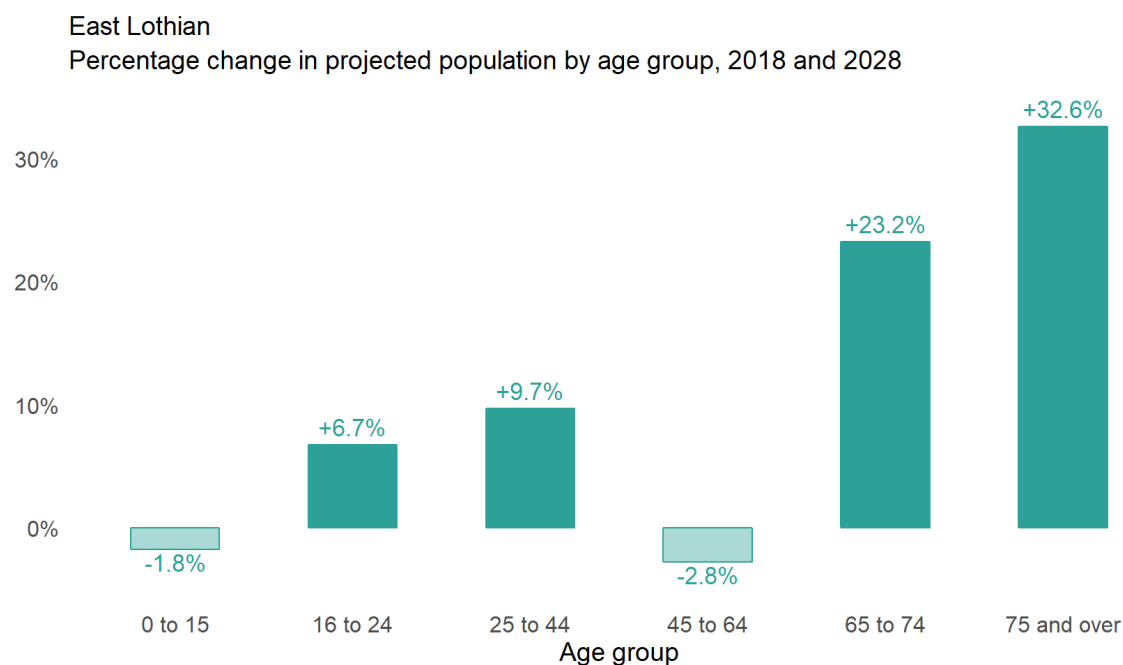
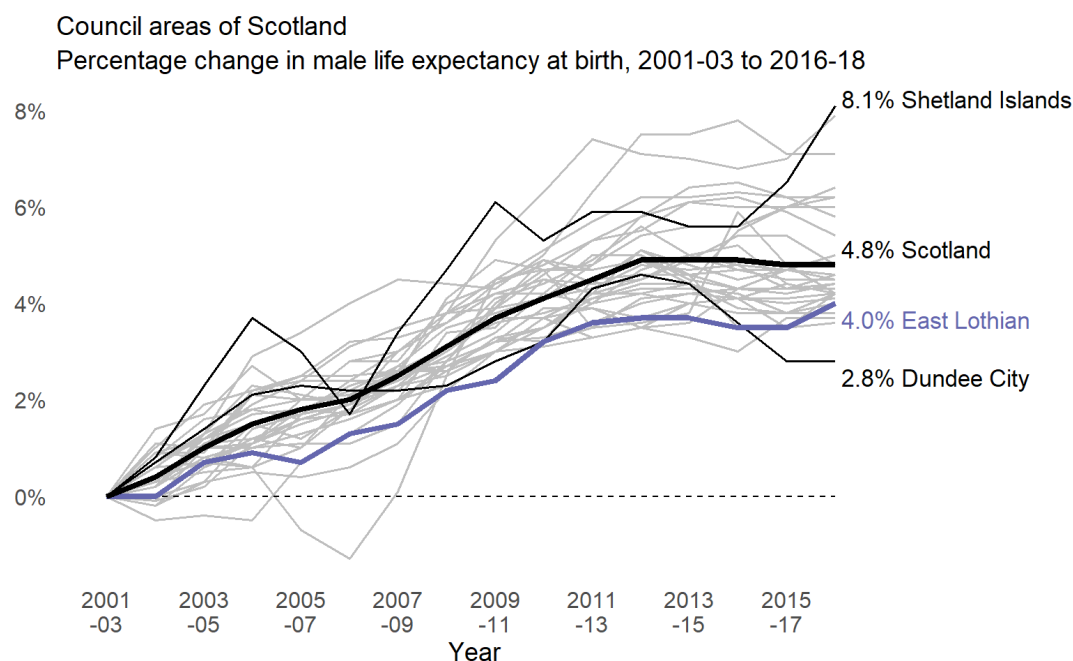


Figure 24:



Over the period between 2001-03 and 2016-18, male life expectancy at birth in East Lothian has risen by 4.0%. This is the joint 27th highest percentage change out of all 32 council areas in Scotland and this is lower than the percentage change for Scotland overall (+4.8%). This measure of health and well-being contrasts sharply with female life expectancy at age 65 to 69 which has risen by 10.7%. This the 8th highest percentage change out of all 32 council areas in Scotland and this is higher than the percentage change for Scotland overall (+9.4%).

Figure 25:

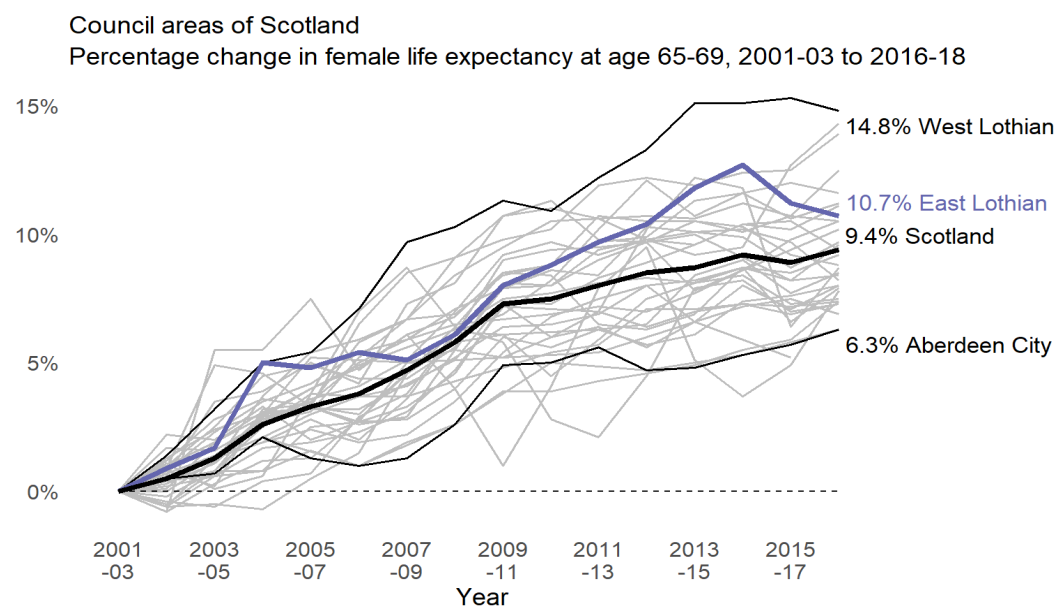
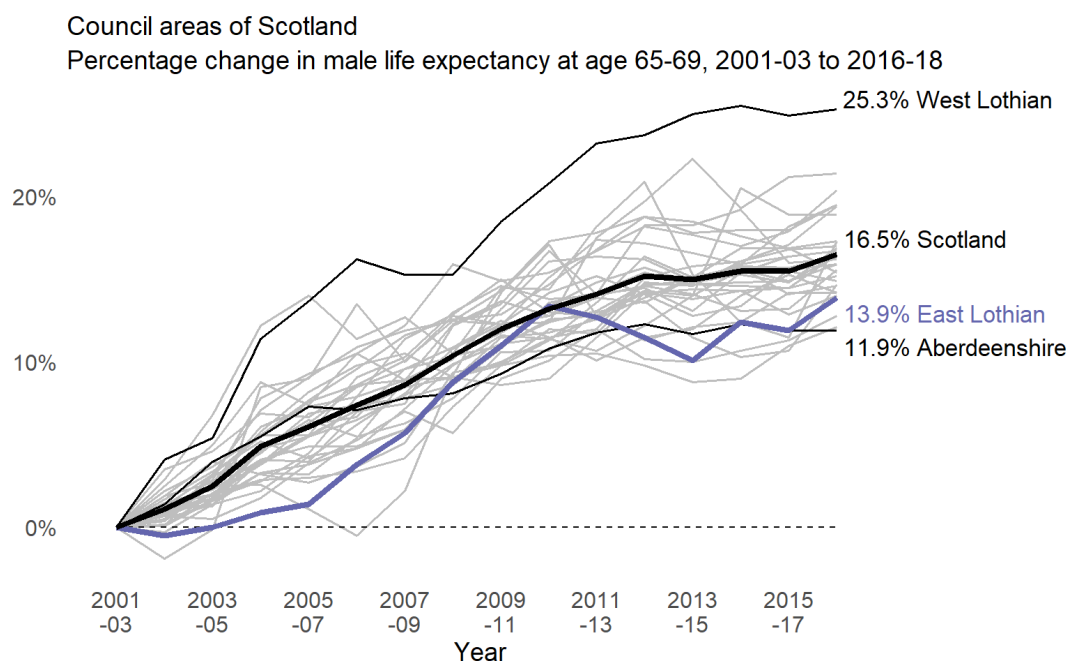


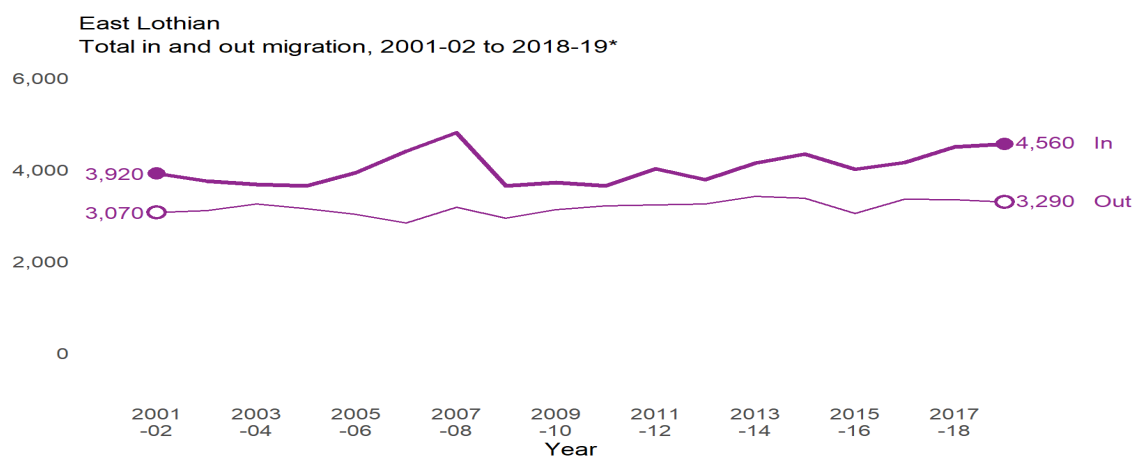
Figure 26:



7.3 Migration

In the period 2018-19, the level of in-migration in East Lothian was 4,560, a 1.3% increase from 4,500 in the period 2017-18. The level of out-migration in East Lothian was 3,290, which is a 1.8% decrease from 3,350 in 2017-18.

Figure 27:

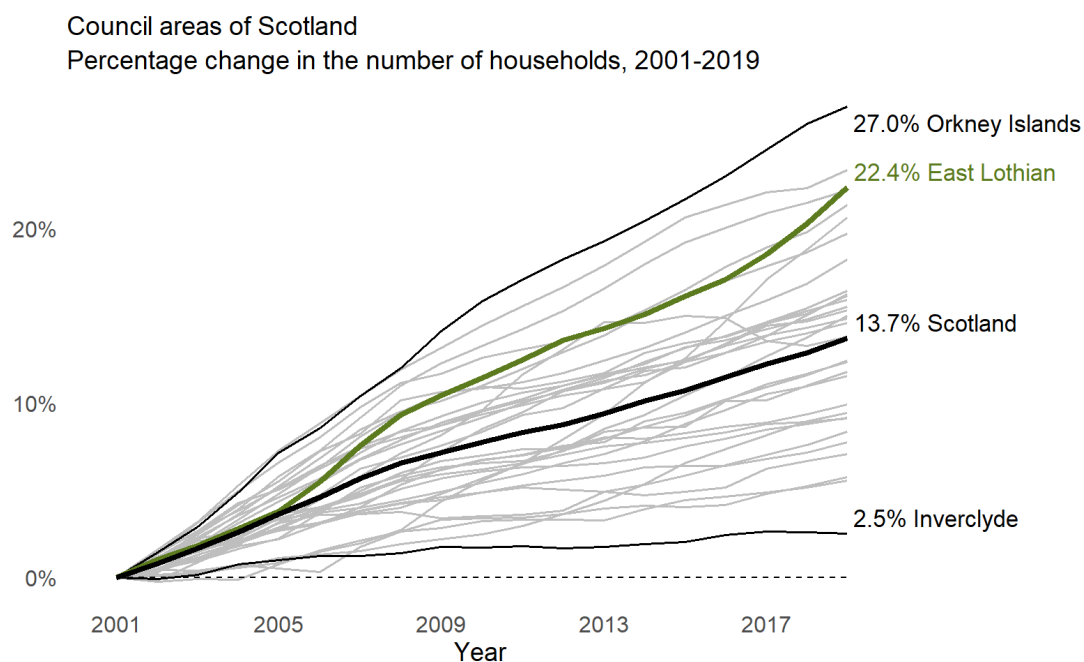


Net migration is the difference between in-migration (those coming into an area) and out-migration (those leaving an area). Positive net migration means in-migration is higher than out-migration. Negative net migration means out-migration is higher than in-migration.

In East Lothian, the net migration rate increased from 10.9 people per 1,000 population in 2017-18 to 11.9 in 2018-19. In comparison, the rate in Scotland overall increased from 3.8 to 5.5 people per 1,000 population.

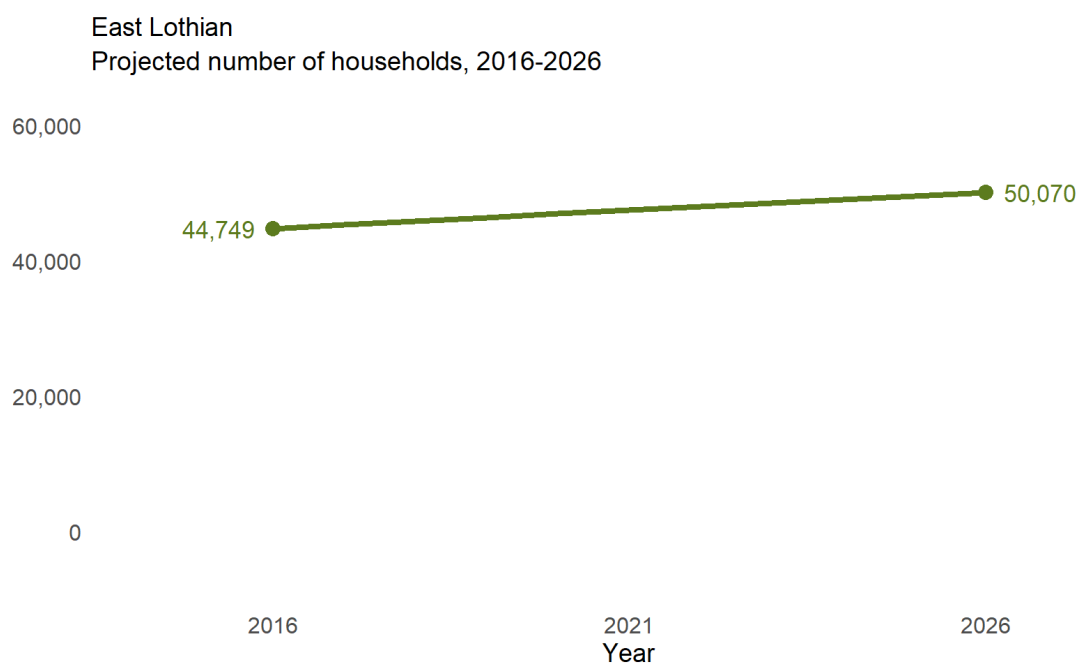
In 2018-19, East Lothian was the council area with the highest net migration rate, out of all 32 council areas in Scotland. Between 2017-18 and 2018-19, 6 councils saw a decrease in net migration rates per 1,000 population and 26 councils saw an increase.

Figure 28:



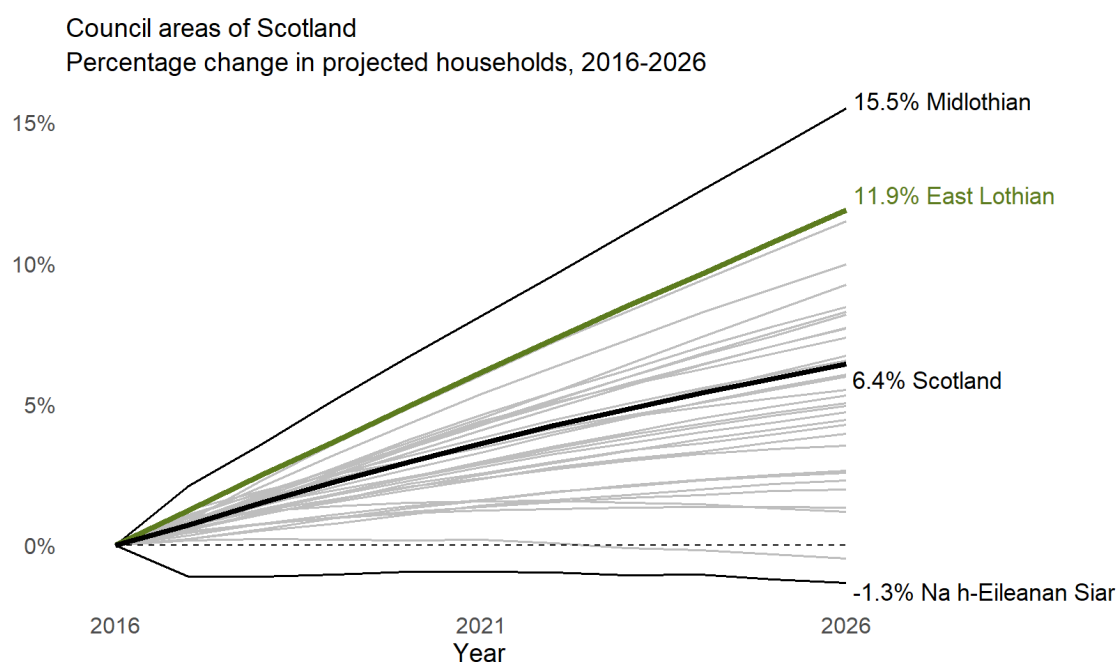
In comparison to 2001, the number of households in East Lothian has increased by 22.4%. This is the 3rd highest percentage change out of the 32 council areas in Scotland and a more rapid change than at Scotland level (+13.7%).

Figure 29:



Between 2016 and 2026, the number of households in East Lothian is projected to increase from 44,749 to 50,070. This is a 11.9% increase, which compares to a projected increase of 6.4% for Scotland as a whole.

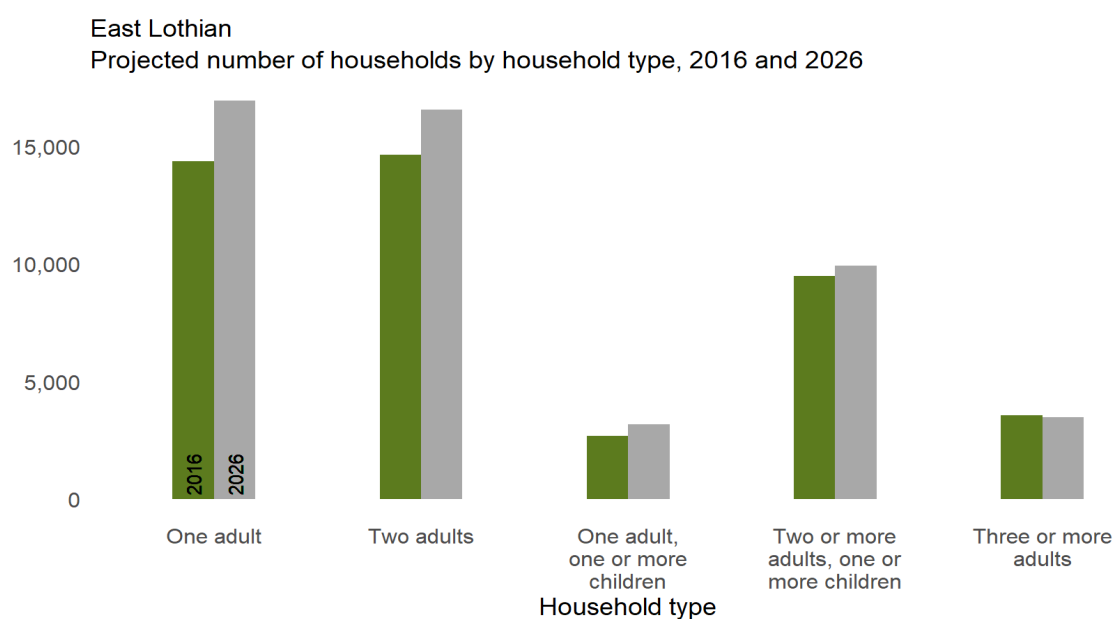
Figure 30:



7.4 Household Numbers and Types in East Lothian

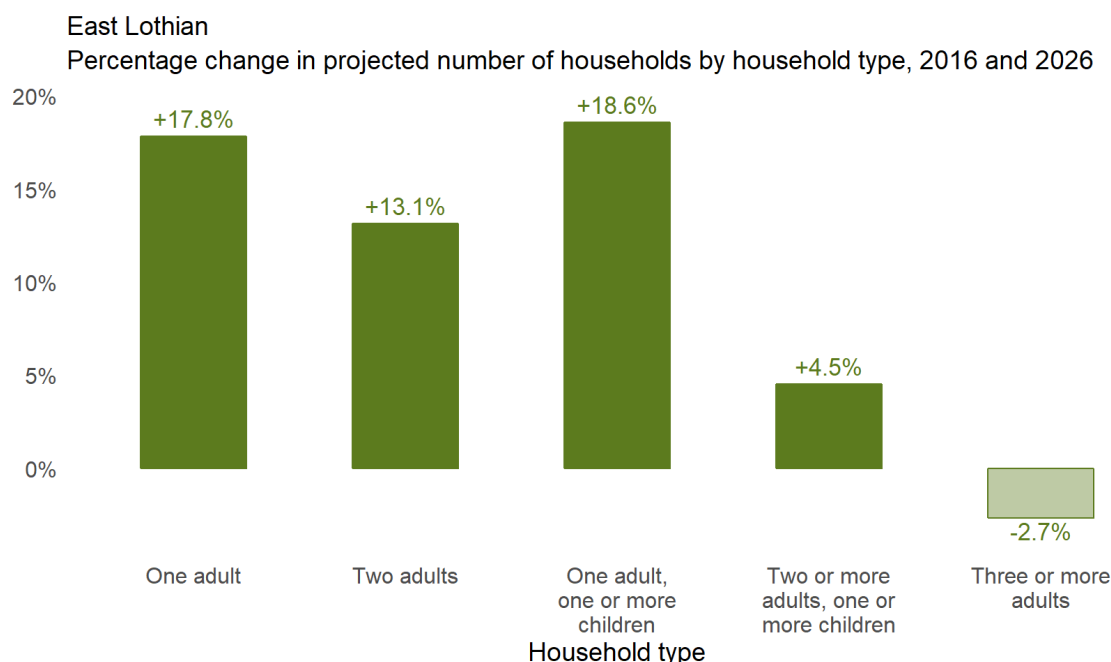
East Lothian is projected to have the 2nd highest percentage change in household numbers out of the 32 council areas in Scotland.

Figure 31:



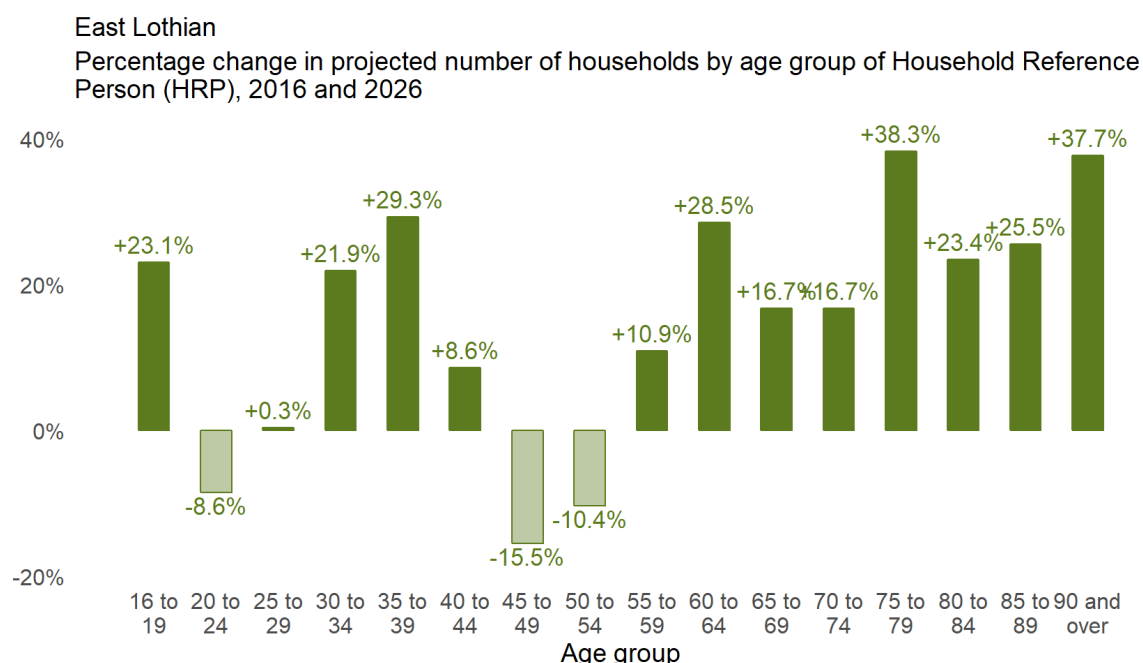
In 2026, the household type “One adult” is projected to become the most common (33.0%) and the household type “One adult, one or more children” is projected to remain the least common (6.4%) in East Lothian.

Figure 32



Between 2016 and 2026, the household type “Three or more adults” is projected to see the largest percentage decrease (-2.7%) and the household type “One adult, one or more children” is projected to see the largest percentage increase (+18.6%).

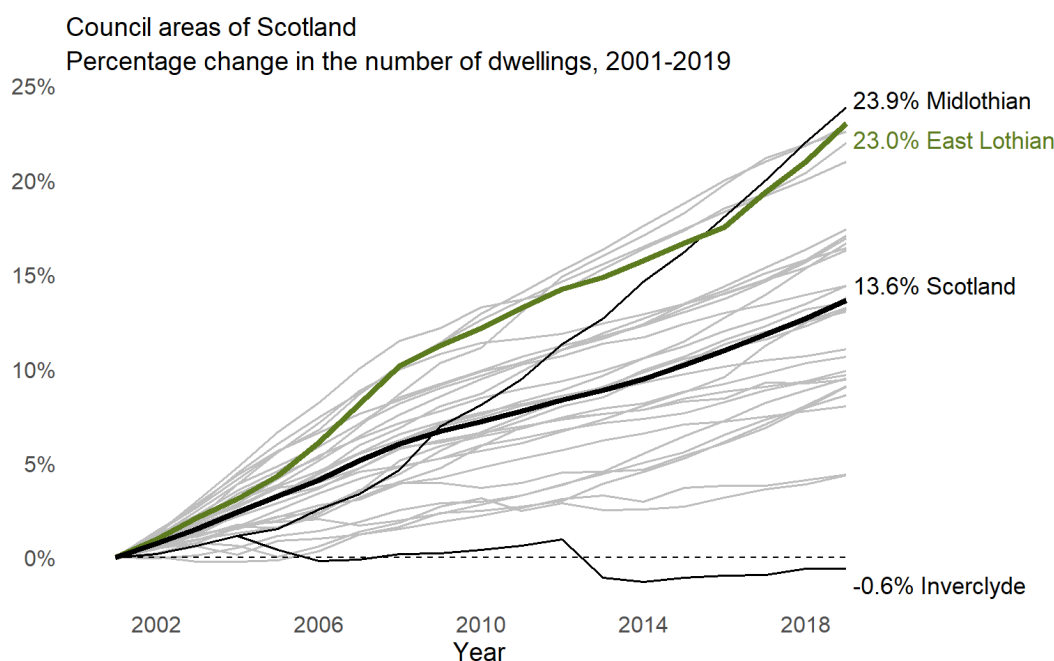
Figure 33



Between 2016 and 2026, the 45 to 49 age group is projected to see the largest percentage decrease (-15.5%) and the 75 to 79 age group is projected to see the largest percentage increase (+38.3%). In

terms of size, however, 55 to 59 is projected to become the largest age group of a Household Reference Person (HRP), compared to 50 to 54 in 2016.

Figure 34



Compared with 2001, the number of dwellings in East Lothian has increased by 23.0%. This is the 2nd highest percentage change out of the 32 council areas in Scotland and a more rapid change than for Scotland as a whole (+13.6%).

7.5: Poverty and Deprivation in East Lothian

The East Lothian Poverty Commission

The East Lothian Poverty Commission was established in 2016 to tackle poverty and inequality in East Lothian. One of the key areas of concern at this time was poverty amongst pensioners. As demonstrated in the demographic data below current data shows that the demographic profile of East Lothian points to a significant increase in the proportion of people aged 75 years and over during the next decade.

There is a very strong evidential base for the relationship between social factors and re-offending²⁹ In recognition of this and the broader impacts of deprivation on mental health, physical health, educational inequalities and the life chances of individuals as well as broader impacts on community well-being. East Lothian Council has adopted a pro-active policy approach which is exemplified by the establishment of The East Lothian Poverty Commission in 2016. The Commission was initially set up on response to clear evidence of rising levels of poverty endured by vulnerable groups in the region. Over 30% of children were living below the poverty line and 49% of pensioners were living in fuel poverty. The extent of food poverty was also particular concern for the Commission.

A central concern is that levels of deprivation across East Lothian have increased significantly since 2016. Evidencing this, data retrieved from The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation indicates that for the first time an area within East Lothian, the Northfield/Lindores Drive area of Tranent, is situated within the top 10% of the most deprived areas in Scotland. In 2020, this area is the 653rd most deprived area in Scotland with low income and crime being the most concerning issue. In 2016 this area was the 788th most deprived area in Scotland. The data also shows that East Lothian was one of

only six local authorities in Scotland where levels of deprivation have risen since 2016. In 2020, 10.2% of East Lothian's population are income deprived compared to 9.8% in 2016.

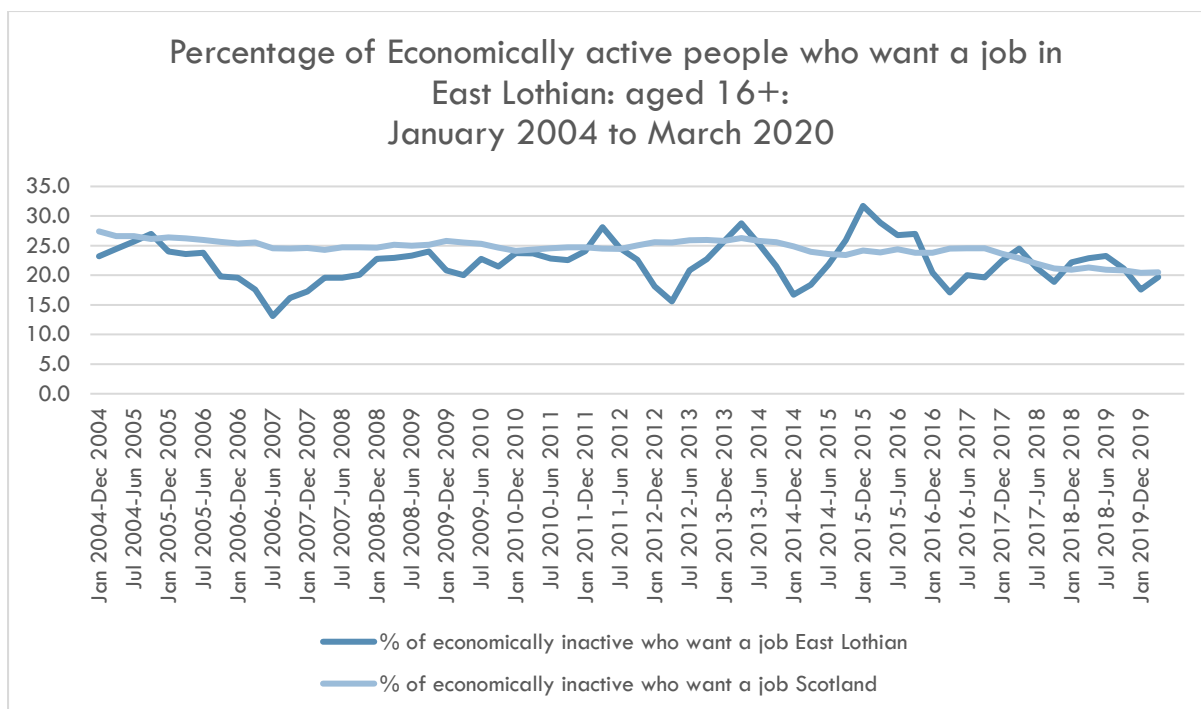
Table 6:

Data Zone name	Town	Overall	Income	Employment	Health	Education	Access	Crime	Housing
High street Northfield/Lindores Drive	Tranent/Wallyford	1	1	2	3	2	8	1	2
High street East/Robertson	Preston Seaton and Gosford	1	1	2	3	1	9	1	2
Goosegreen / Fisherrow	Musselburgh	2	2	2	4	2	4	3	4
Cuthill/Northbank Road	Preston, Seaton Gosford	2	3	2	3	1	8	3	1
Coalgate Road Robertson	Tranent/Wallyford	2	2	2	4	2	5	4	3
Loch Road/Kings Road	Tranent/Wallyford	2	2	2	3	3	10	2	5
Inchview North/Preston	Preston/Seaford Gosford	2	2	2	4	1	8	3	3
Wallyford Village Central	Tranent/Wallyford	2	2	2	5	2	5	4	3

7.6 Employment in East Lothian

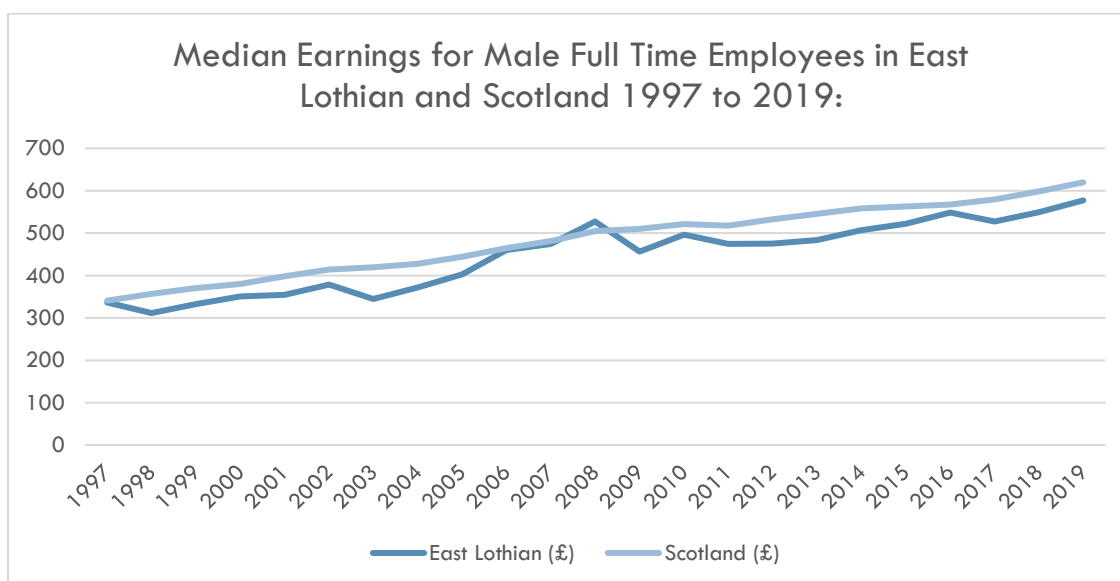
As Figure 35 shows, the economic activity rate for the population aged between 16 and 65 in East Lothian compares favourably with economic activity rates across Scotland as whole between the period January 2004 and March 2020. Despite this, levels of deprivation across East Lothian have risen from 9.8% in 2016 to 10.2% in 2020. This suggests that low income, underemployment and insecure and part-time work contribute significantly to levels of deprivation in East Lothian.

Figure 35: Economic Activity rate: aged 16+



The graph below is indicative of levels of low income in East Lothian when compared with average income in Scotland. Apart from the year 2008 income levels have been consistently lower than the national average since 1997.

Figure 36:



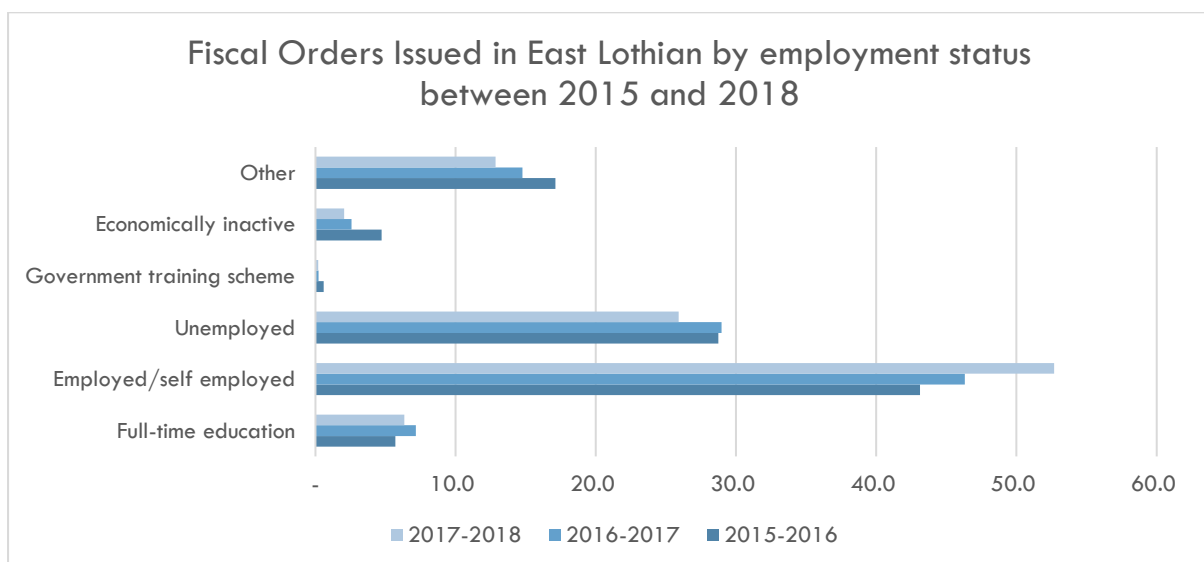
The relationship between low income and crime has been evidenced in several recent studies.

As Figure 37 below shows in East Lothian most of the individuals on Fiscal Work Orders during 2017-2018 were either in employment or self-employed. Significantly this figure has risen by 10% since 2015-2016 from 43% to 53%. This suggests that low income levels and/or non-standard employment/underemployment may be a contributory factor to offending behaviour in East Lothian. Recent evidence has revealed that for employees living in rural areas of East Lothian the cost of transport to their place of employment has led to lower disposable income.³⁰ The Case for Change in line with the Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) study was undertaken in January 2019³¹.

This extensive study found that Edinburgh city centre, East Edinburgh, Haddington and North Berwick are the main attractors locations of employment for people resident in East Lothian. Most respondents indicated that they travel regularly to Edinburgh city centre (45%) for employment purposes whereas for retail a higher proportion travel to East Edinburgh, likely for Fort Kinnard Retail Park. Edinburgh city centre attracts the largest proportion for leisure purposes (52%) followed by North Berwick (42%). 59% of respondents identified the cost of public transport as the key transport issue. This was followed by the poor frequency and lack of integration of public transport services. Overcrowding and the reliability of public transport services was also a key issue particularly for people living in rural areas in East Lothian. All of these factors contribute to low income and low household work intensity particularly where employers demand flexibility rather than a set pattern of working hours or shifts.

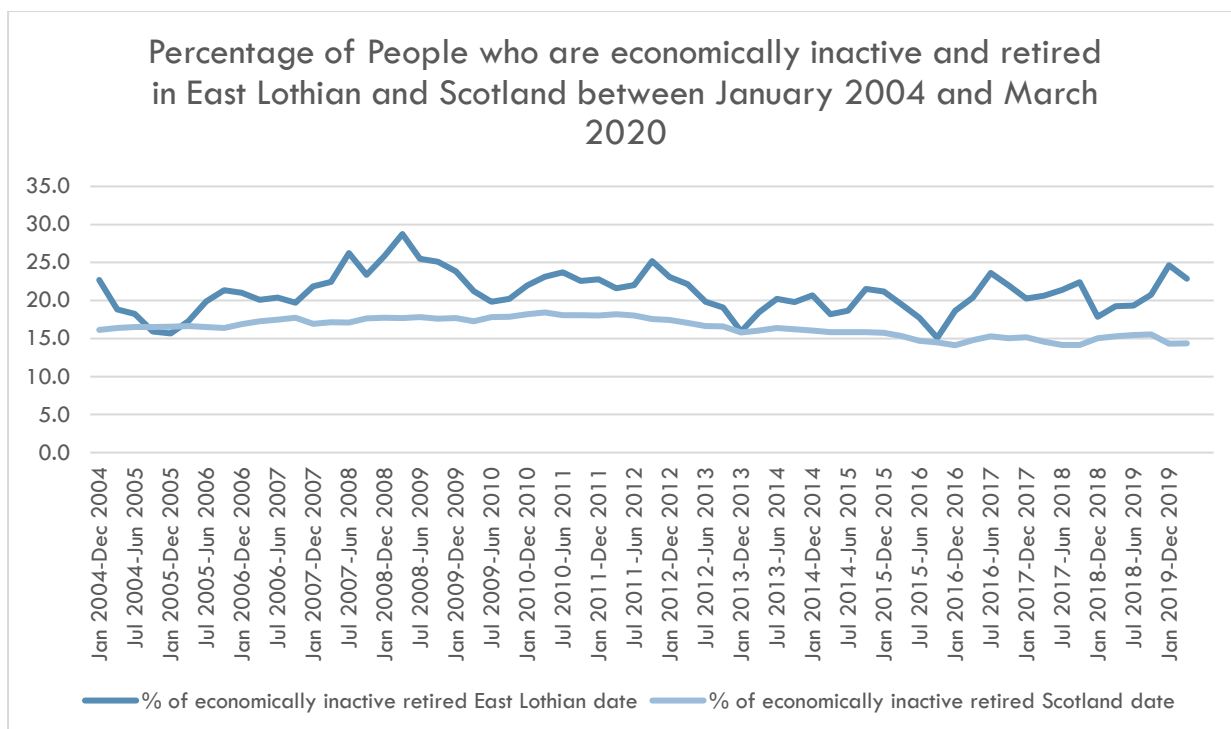
It is also significant that individuals on government training schemes have low levels of offending and the number of Fiscal Work Orders issued to people in full time Education has decreased from 7.3% in 2016-2017 to 6.2% in 2018-2019.

Figure: 37 Fiscal Work Orders



Demographic characteristics of the region are a further contributing factor to levels of deprivation. Here as Figure 38 shows below the proportion of people who are economically inactive and retired in East Lothian between 2004 and 2020 has remained consistently higher than the Scottish average.

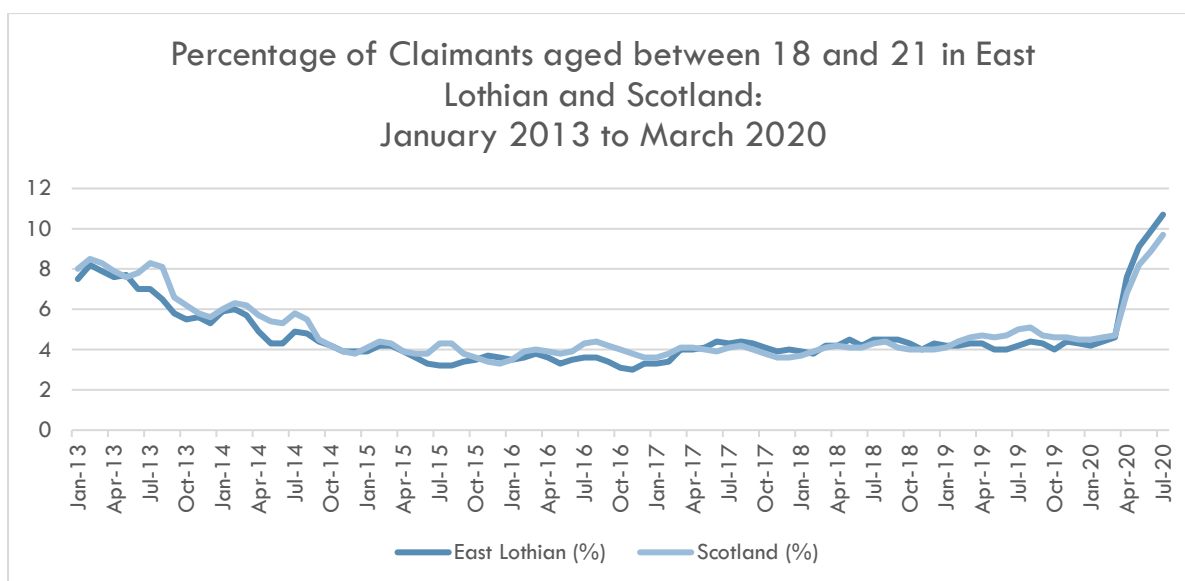
Figure 38:



Youth Transitions, Deprivation and Offending

The relationship between youth transitions, deprivation and offending has been evidenced by a broad range of recent studies.³² In particular, coherent and meaningful transitions between education and employment have been evidenced as being pivotal to the health and long-term well-being of young people³³. The impact of the Financial Crises of 2007-2008 and the Coronavirus Pandemic on the youth labour market in Scotland and East Lothian is clearly revealed below (Figure, 39). Here, whilst there is clear evidence of gradual recovery and general stability in the youth labour market between January, 2013 and March 2020. There is a very sharp rise in the percentage of benefit claimants aged between 18 and 21 in East Lothian and Scotland as a whole between March 2020 and July 2020. Significantly, whilst the graph reveals similar patterns in East Lothian and Scotland over the whole period between 2013 and 2020 there are early indications that the Coronavirus Pandemic may be having a more serious impact on the youth labour market in East Lothian when compared with the youth labour market in Scotland as a whole. Here, in July 2020, 10.7% of claimants were aged between 18 and 21 compared with 9.7% in this age group across the whole of Scotland.

Figure 39:



The table below reveals the claimant count for 16-24 year olds. This age group has been particularly badly affected as young people often work in sectors, such as hospitality, that have been locked down and may suffer long term damage as a result of the lockdown and continuing restrictions.

Table 8: Age Profile of Claimants by Local Authority (16-24-year olds)

Local Authority	March	April	May	June	% Change March - June
East Lothian	335	580	705	755	125%
West Lothian	775	1,095	1,395	1,480	91%
Midlothian	325	545	650	695	114%
Edinburgh	1,125	2,090	2,805	3,135	179%
Fife	1,845	2,655	3,020	3,260	77%
Scottish Borders	430	645	755	810	88%
Column Total	4,835	7,610	9,335	10,130	110%

Source: NOMIS: Data accessed: 30th July 2020

The economic impact of Covid 19 Pandemic on young people aged between 16 and 24 between March and June 2020 in East Lothian is clearly evidenced above. Economic and labour market uncertainty has exacerbated the deleterious impact on the local and national economy as people are reluctant or restrained from travelling and shopping. The leisure sector has suffered a long-term impact with some businesses closing completely³⁴. There is growing evidence that the claimant count will increase again in October as a result of continued economic uncertainty and intermittent restrictions and lockdowns.

Over 10,000 people aged between 16-24 joined the claimant count in June, 2020. Whilst Fife has the most claimants in this age group Edinburgh has seen the largest percentage increase between May and June

Table 9: Age Profile of Claimants in East Lothian

Month (2020)	March	April	May	June	% Change March - June
16-24-year olds	335	580	705	755	125%
25-49-year olds	990	1,860	2,100	1,975	99%
50 years and older	395	745	875	825	109%
Total	1720	3185	3,680	3,555	107%

Young people aged between 16 and 24 have suffered the greatest job losses as a result of the economic impact of the Covid 19 Pandemic. To fully understand the underlying reasons for this it is important to take account of key economic and labour market characteristics in East Lothian. In terms of industrial base, East Lothian benefits from a diverse business base with strengths in tourism and Higher Education, and a strong service sector related to the regions proximity to Edinburgh. In terms of the labour market, whilst Edinburgh has benefitted from increasing numbers of highly skilled jobs emerging from a strengthening scientific and technical sector. In East Lothian itself job opportunities tend to be more lower skilled and there is a particularly high rate of part-time and insecure jobs. The proportion of young people aged between 16 and 24 working part-time has increased over the previous decade. In particular young people occupy approximately a third of all people on zero hour contracts and whilst young people may decide to take up more flexible forms of working high underemployment rates for young adults suggest that experiences of part time and zero hours contracts arise out of necessity rather than choice.³⁵ Less advantaged young people, especially those with lower levels of educational attainment, are more likely to experience part-time, low income and sub-standard employment conditions. In addition, whilst levels of educational attainment align with national patterns, the proportion of school leavers aged 16 who enter employment directly is above the national average. This is significant as the Coronavirus pandemic has led to a significant reduction in employment opportunities across Scotland. Here, it may be suggested that a strategic commitment to investment in skills development and further and higher education will be necessary during the current Coronavirus Pandemic to ensure that young people are able to navigate challenging economic and labour market conditions. In particular, young people will need to be equipped in digital and technological skills across all sectors including Health and Education. The current focus on public health has brought the importance of new biotechnologies and interactive digital platforms at all levels of Education into stark relief. The graph below indicates that there are significantly lower levels of economically inactive students in East Lothian. Whilst this may indicate lower levels of part-time working amongst students in East Lothian it may also be indicative of lower numbers of young people transitioning to further and higher education in East Lothian. As previously shown the higher proportion of young people going directly into employment following school evidences this trend.

Figure 40:

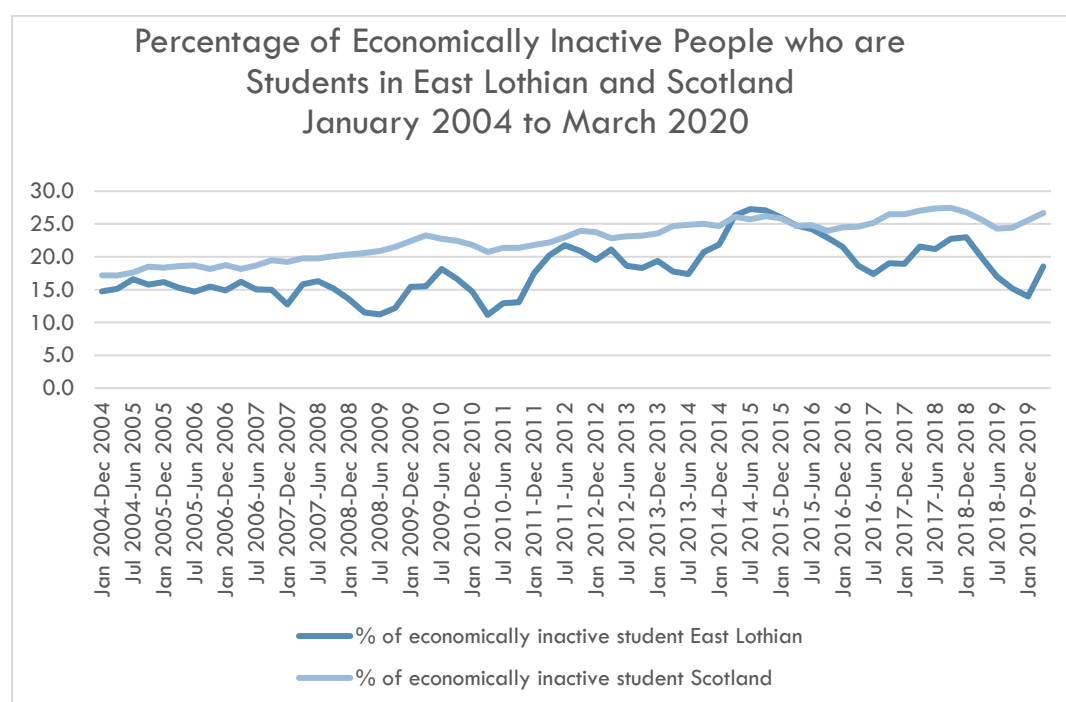
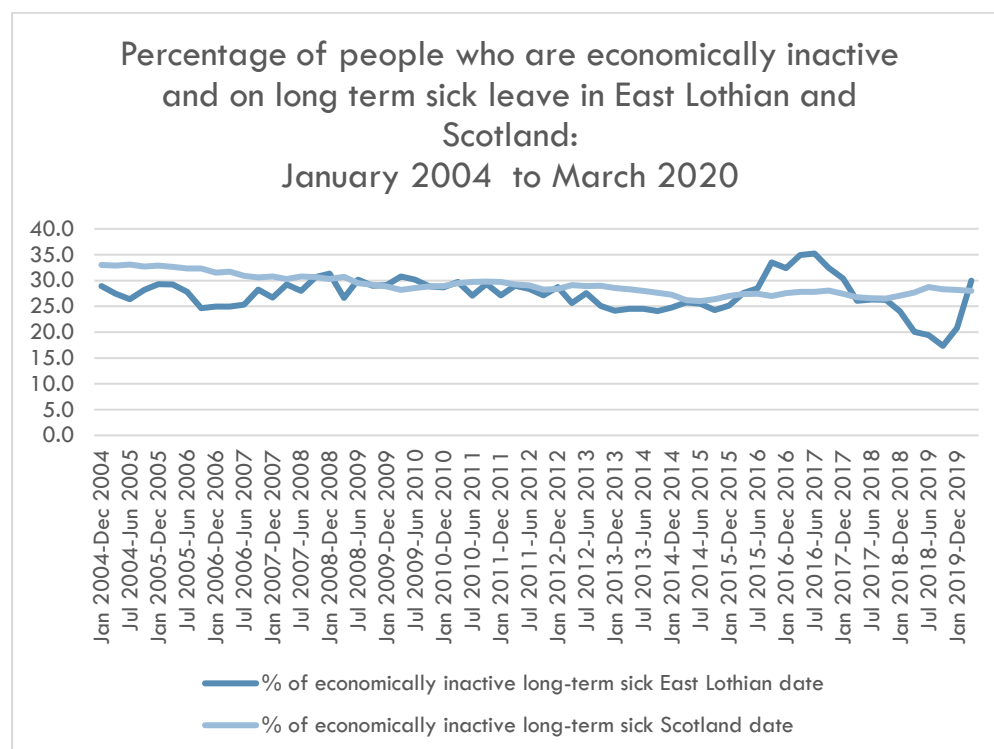


Figure 41:



8.0 Analysis of the Community Payback Order Entry and Exit Questionnaires

Any individual subject to a period of supervision as either part of a post-release Licence/Order or as a requirement of a Community Payback Order is asked to complete an Entry Questionnaire when their Order or Licence begins. This is followed up with an Exit Questionnaire on completion of the period of supervision – there are occasions, relating to non-compliance, breach, failure to attend a final appointment and/or refusal to undertake, that means we do not have accurate information from all such cases. The following is part of an analysis undertaken to populate the Community Payback Order Annual Report:

- The sample related only to those who were sentenced to a Community Payback Order with a supervision requirement – there may have been other requirements as well
- The request was for 30 random individuals to be identified of which:
 - FOUR had no Entry Questionnaire
 - SIX had no Exit Questionnaire
 - THREE had neither Entry nor Exit Questionnaires (may be included in figures noted above)
- 19 individuals confirmed that they had ‘looked at why you had offended’ during their CPO
- 16 individuals identified a desire to understand what puts them at risk of offending behaviour as part of their CPO
- 13 individuals identified that they were able to explain ‘the impact of your offending on victims’ at the end of their CPO

- 11 individuals identified housing as a welfare issue at the start of their Order with 10 confirming that 'I now have settled accommodation' at the end of their CPO
- EIGHT individuals noted Employment, Training and/or Education as a welfare need with the same number stating either their action or the action of their social worker resulted in an improvement in their situation at Order end
- FIVE individuals identified an improvement in familial relationships over the time of the Order
- SIX individuals identified a reduction in substance misuse during their Orders, however NINE stated they did not consider substance use to have been an issue in any case
- 17 individuals stated they had not reoffended during their CPO with ONE stating there was a further offence but it was 'less serious' and another stating their offending was 'less frequent'
- 19 individuals stated that there were no outstanding issues needing addressed at the end of their Order

This analysis, albeit it a small sample, has identified that the Entry and Exit Questionnaires require review – this will improve correlation and robust data retrieval relating to both outputs and outcomes. This activity is being undertaken both within East Lothian and by a Social Work Scotland Justice Committee Short Life Working Group, which includes representation from Justice Social Work Service Managers, Scottish Government, Care Inspectorate, Third Sector and Community Justice Scotland.

9.0 The Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on the Health and Well-being of Informal Carers in East Lothian

Understanding the prevalence and demands of caring in East Lothian during the Covid-19 pandemic is vital in informing the delivery of support plans and initiatives for individuals involved in informal caring in East Lothian. There are an estimated 14,584 carers in East Lothian in 2019. It is estimated that 3 in 5 people are likely to become a carer at some point in their lives. The care they provide is of significant value, however, such a role can have a negative impact on the physical and mental health and wellbeing of carers, especially given the over-representation of carers in midlife and older age groups. Around half of those who provide informal care are coping with a long-term condition themselves. Having caring responsibilities can also impact on key areas of personal wellbeing including social relationships, finances and employment opportunities³⁶. Critically, research into the complex impact of Covid-19 on health outcomes for the population of East Lothian requires full cognisance of increases in the numbers of people of all ages who are caring for people who have suffered health complications as a result of contracting the Covid-19 virus. Here, the health impacts may be direct or indirect. For example, there are a range of direct long-term health complications that may arise from the Covid-19 virus particularly regarding long Covid. The indirect health impacts arise from delayed access to NHS treatments during the Covid-19 pandemic and mental health outcomes arising from contraction of the virus and broader issues arising from bereavement, economic and financial stress, isolation and loneliness and anxiety relating to the general environment created during the Covid-19 pandemic. An assessment of the public health impacts of the virus generally and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Carers in East Lothian is urgent. This assessment will inform East Lothian's Carers Action Plan as well as other key strategic areas relating to public health and social care in the region.

The impact of The Covid 19 Pandemic on Young Carers

A young carer is regarded as someone who provides regular continuing care and emotional support to a family member (this does not include every day and occasional help with routine tasks at home that young people are often required to provide). Young carers usually have more responsibilities for a family member than most of their friends with on-going caring responsibilities. There were approximately 29,000 young carers in Scotland in 2019 (4% of the under 16 population). Some young carers may be in a formal paid position however many provide unpaid care to family members, neighbours or friends who are unable to manage themselves due to disability, debilitating illnesses, frailty or age. Recent research has revealed that some carers are unaware that they are undertaking informal unpaid care.

The physical and psychological stress of caring for a parent, sibling or family member with a substantial disability, physical or mental health need places young carers themselves at risk of mental and physical ill health, social isolation, bullying and educational underachievement. The Covid-19 health pandemic has placed an intolerable burden on young carers in the UK with 40% of young carers aged between 12 and 17 and 59% of young adult carers aged between 18 and 25 describing their mental health as deteriorating as a result of the Covid-19 health pandemic (The Carers Trust, 2020). Within the current Covid-19 context young adult carers urgently need to be provided with adequate and meaningful levels of health and home care support from a range of services to ensure their current and future physical and psychological well-being.

The East Lothian Carers Strategy³⁷

The East Lothian Carers Strategy focuses on eight outcomes including better identification of carers; better access to tailored and age-appropriate information and advice and ensuring that carers are supported to maintain their own physical, emotional and mental wellbeing. It also aims to ensure that breaks from caring are timely and regularly available; young carers are supported to have a life outside of their caring role, and all carers can achieve a good balance between caring and other aspects of their lives. The strategy also includes a commitment to ensuring that carers are respected by professionals and that communities are carer friendly.

East Lothian Carers Strategy: Eight Outcomes

1. Adults and Young Carers are identified and can access support
2. Carers are well-informed and have access to tailored and age-appropriate information and advice throughout their role
3. Carers are supported to maintain their own physical, mental and emotional wellbeing
4. Provide breaks from caring and replacement care to carers meeting the ELHSCP eligibility criteria
5. Young Carers are supported to have a life outside of their caring life
6. Carers can achieve a balance between caring and other aspects of their lives
7. Carers and Young Carers are respected by professionals as partners in care and are included in the planning and delivery of both the care and support for the people they care for
8. Local communities are supported to be carer friendly.

East Lothian Community Partnership delivers several innovative projects designed to support health care and home care services for carers in the region. These projects include the Bridges Project and East Space which are directed specifically at young carers.

The Impact of The Coronavirus Pandemic on local economies and labour markets in East Lothian

The Covid-19 outbreak on the 20th March 2020 led to the closure of businesses which involved people working in close proximity to one another. There was a national lockdown on March 23rd, 2020. This lockdown led to a major increase in the number of people claiming Universal Credit. The claimant count increased significantly across a number of areas of Scotland, and the UK. The table below shows the increase in the number of claimants in each local authority.

Comparison of the Contribution from Each LA

Table 7

Local Authority	March 2020		April 2020		May 2020		June 2020	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
East Lothian	1720	2.6	3185	4.9	3,680	5.6	3,555	5.4%
West Lothian	3,450	3.0	5,600	4.8	6,645	5.7	6,485	5.5
Midlothian	1,495	2.6	2,735	4.8	3,160	5.6	3,040	5.4
Edinburgh	7,285	2.0	13,980	3.9	17,775	4.9	17,850	4.9
Fife	8,810	3.8	13,690	5.9	15,050	6.5	15,105	6.5
Scottish Borders	1,900	2.8	3,325	4.9	3,735	5.5	3,645	5.3
City Region	24,660	2.7	42,520	4.7	50,045	5.6	49,675	5.5

Source: NOMIS: Data accessed: 28th July 2020

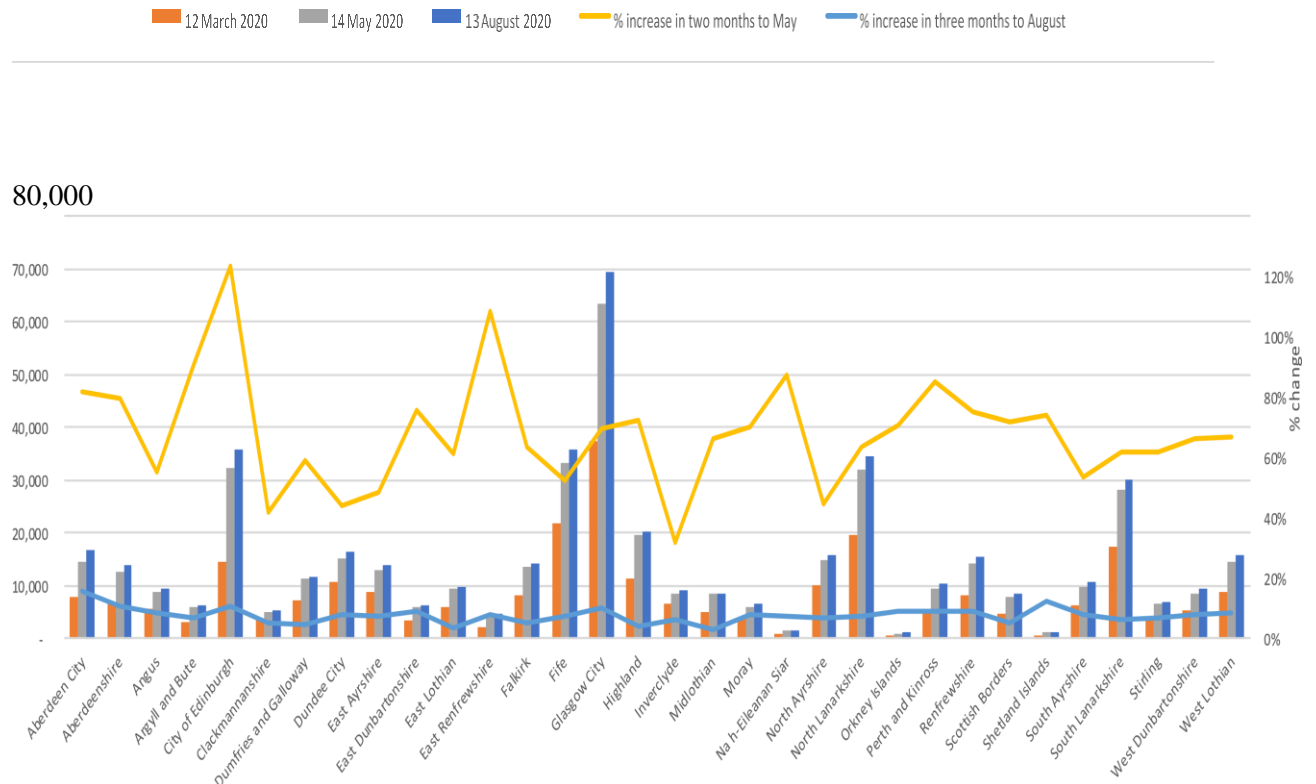
The economic and labour market impacts of the Covid 19 Pandemic are clearly felt across all wards in East Lothian. Here it is also important to note that areas where there was previously a lower number of claimants have suffered the largest impact in terms of the percentage change in the number of claimants. Here, North Berwick Coastal Region and Dunbar and East Linton have seen an increase of 175% and 125% in claimant counts respectively between March and June 2020. It is notable that whilst a number of people commute from these areas to Edinburgh to work, these areas have a strong reliance on tourism. This strongly suggests that future strategic investment will be needed to rejuvenate the tourist industry in these areas.

Table 10:

Ward	March 2020	June 2020	% Change
North Berwick Coastal	100	275	175%
Dunbar and East Linton	190	425	125%
Haddington and Lammermuir	240	525	119%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	295	595	102%
Musselburgh	460	905	97%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	435	825	90%

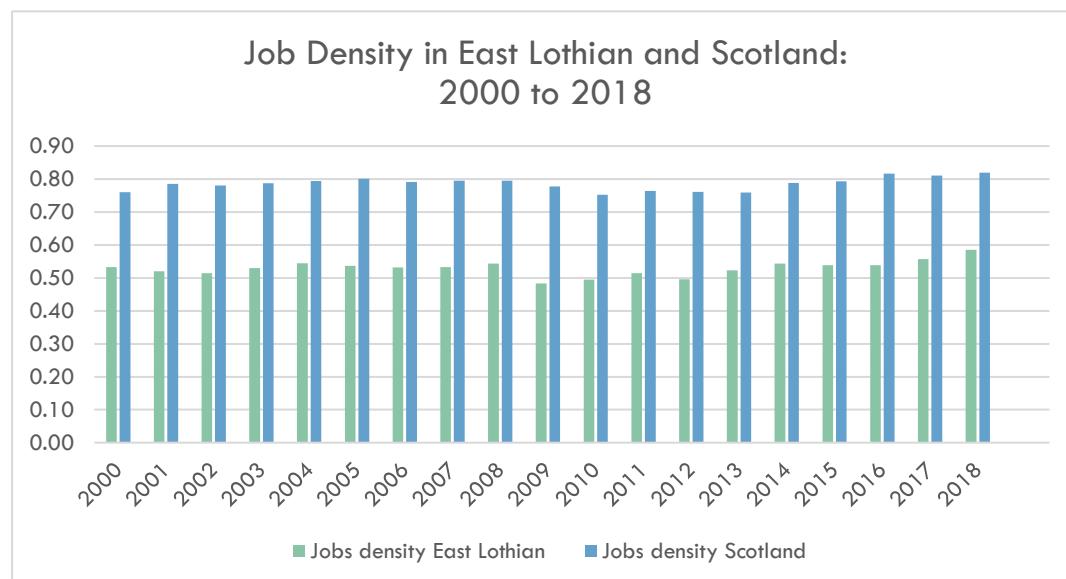
This chart below shows how the number of people receiving Universal Credit changed over two months of lockdown (March, 2000 – May, 2000) relative to the three subsequent months (May, 2000 – August, 2000). In East Lothian there was an increase of 67% between March and May. Some Local Authorities were harder hit than others by the economic and labour market impact of the Covid 19 Pandemic. For example, the number of people receiving Universal Credit more than doubled in both the City of Edinburgh (a 123% increase) and East Renfrewshire (108%). Over this period the UC caseload increased by 66% across Scotland as a whole.

Figure 42: People on Universal Credit by Local Authority



A central concern in relation to future labour market prospects for people living and working in East Lothian is the low job density in the area. As Figure 43 below shows there is a considerable difference between job density in Scotland as a whole and job density in East Lothian reflecting the relatively low industrial and manufacturing capacity in the region. The education sector generates up the largest proportion of jobs in the area.

Figure 43:



The graph below evidences the degree to which the Education Sector in East Lothian generates employment in the Region.

Figure: 44

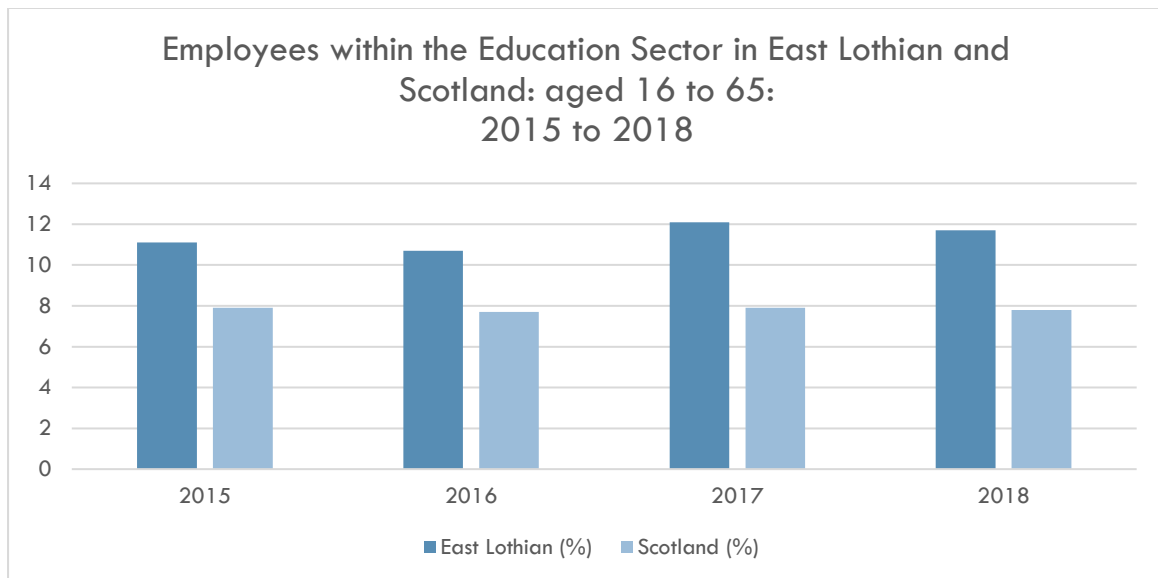
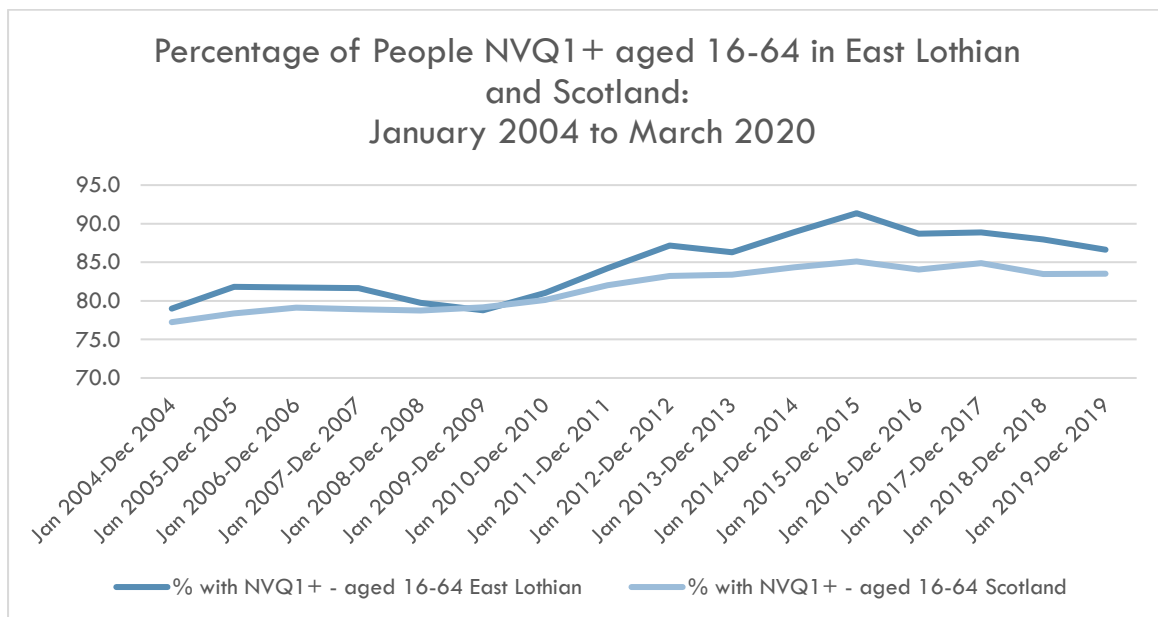
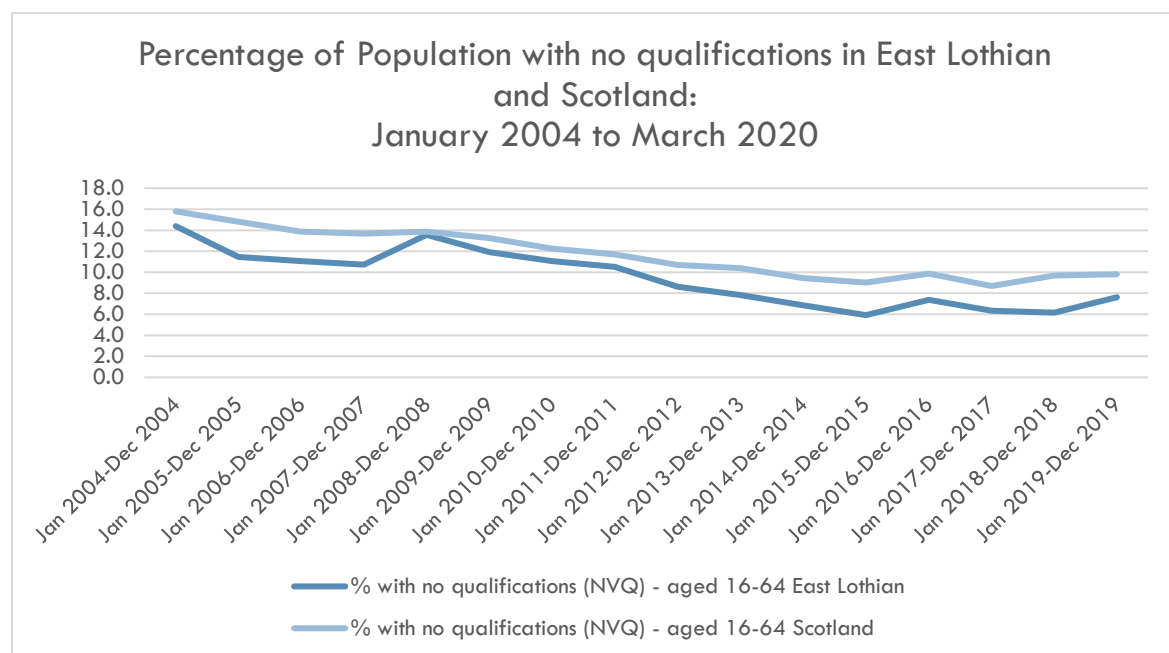


Figure 45:



Further as Figure (above) reveals the average level of educational qualifications in East Lothian has consistently exceeded the average level of qualifications in Scotland as a whole. Re-enforcing this the percentage of the population in East Lothian with no qualifications has been consistently lower than the national average.

Figure 46



Recommendations

1. To address the challenges emerging from a Covid 19 public health and economic context by strengthening and investing in existing evidenced based services provided by East Lothian Community Justice Partnership within the context of an integrated public health approach.
2. To evaluate existing processes relating to current and future constraints arising from the closure of Haddington Sheriff Court. In particular, it would be helpful to ascertain the impact of the closure of Haddington Sheriff Court on information sharing and partnership working to ensure the timely provision of information relevant to pre-sentencing decisions such as Psychological Assessments and Justice Social Work Reports to ensure that decision making is adequately informed.
3. To ensure the accurate and timely recording of information relating to the postcode and housing status of individuals convicted of offences within the local authority group Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian as all of these individuals were convicted in Edinburgh Sheriff Court, however as Table shows 21% of offenders convicted in Edinburgh Sheriff Court had missing postcodes. A recent analysis of data related to re-convictions across local authorities in Scotland conducted by the Scottish Government also noted the importance of recording no-fixed abode within the case management process. Missing data seriously undermines the reliability of data relating to reconviction rates. Critically also, 11% of individuals convicted in Edinburgh Sheriff Court reside in local authorities out-with Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian. Overall, this shows that there are significant percentages of offenders convicted in Edinburgh Sheriff Court who reside in local authorities which are out-with Edinburgh City. Accurate and timely recording of the postcode of convicted individuals is also important within the broader case management process particularly with regard to identifying offenders with no fixed abode.
4. To take account of significant growth in levels of poverty in the region and tailor strategic investment in public services to mitigate deteriorating economic and labour market conditions. This deterioration is largely a result of the structural impact of the Covid 19 pandemic however the departure of the UK from the European Union will exacerbate existing economic conditions.
5. To recognise population growth as a significant factor in future strategic investment decisions in East Lothian. In particular, in terms of the projected population profile between 2018 and 2028 the 75 and over age group is projected to see the largest percentage increase (+32.6%).
6. To undertake an in-depth and detailed assessment of Public Health Impacts and or implications of Covid 19 legislation and guidance on ELCJP Services and Projects.
7. To recognise the impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on youth transitions in the region. In particular rapidly changing economic and labour market conditions have impacted significantly on training and education needs particularly with regard to equipping young people with the digital and technological skills required across all sectors within a future post-covid economy.
8. To provide increased support for informal carers in the East Lothian. Increased investment in Health Care and Home Care Services is recommended to mitigate the negative impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on the physical and mental health of carers in the region. Demographic changes in the area which predict a higher proportion of elderly people in the region over the next also evidences the need for increased levels of strategic investment in integrated health and social care provision to support informal carers in the region. In addition, a full assessment of the needs of young carers should be undertaken with increased investment in innovative projects such as The Bridges Project and East Space alongside increased support through health care and home care services for young carers.

9. To continue to develop a strong collaboration with the Education sector at all levels in East Lothian as it is a major employer in the region and is also a significant partner particularly within programmes driven by Intervention, Prevention and the reduction of educational inequalities.
10. To invite the East Lothian Community Justice Partnership to consider the critical data contained within this report and the impact this has on community justice services in East Lothian.

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